

MASSACHUSETTS RIVERS AND WETLANDS MONTHS CALENDAR FOR 2015

MAY IS WETLANDS MONTH, and JUNE IS RIVERS MONTH! This calendar, covering river-and wetland-related events in Massachusetts from **Saturday, April 25** to **Sunday, July 5**, has been compiled by the **Mass. Department of Fish and Game's [Division of Ecological Restoration](#) (DER)** to provide you with the opportunity to participate in events in, on, along or about the rivers and wetlands of the Commonwealth. Take this opportunity to invite your friends, family, local leaders, legislators, and/or a favorite reporter to clean up, paddle, protect, enjoy and celebrate your favorite rivers, streams, salt marshes and freshwater wetlands, or experience new ones. Get some healthful exercise and spend time in nature in and/or along the Commonwealth's many scenic waterways and marshes.

The events below are listed in chronological order and are labeled with the [Massachusetts river or watershed](#) the activity takes place in or on. Many activities require reservations in advance. Please call/e-mail ahead to inquire about any restrictions, fees, rain dates or cancellations that may apply. Any questions should be directed to the event organizers at the contact phone numbers and/or e-mails provided for each listing.

If you know of an event that is not yet listed on this Calendar but ought to be, send the info along to Russ Cohen at Russ.Cohen@state.ma.us, and he may be able to add it. You may also want to **re-visit this Calendar from time to time** to look for any newly-added events, updated info, etc. [*this Calendar was most recently updated on 6/4/15*]. Lastly, don't forget to check out the **Mass. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' [The Great Outdoors Blog](#)** for more info on these and other outdoor events and activities.

Event Listings by Week:

[April 25 – May 1](#)

[May 2 – May 8](#)

[May 9 – May 15](#)

[May 16 – May 22](#)

[May 23 – May 29](#)

[May 30 – June 5](#)

[June 6 – June 12](#)

[June 13 – June 19](#)

[June 20 – June 26](#)

[June 27 – July 5](#)

April and May weekends (Saturday and Sunday) – CONCORD RIVER – Whitewater Rafting Trips in Lowell, 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM, sponsored by the [Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust](#) and [Zoar Outdoor](#). “This whitewater gem plunges over three major Class III - IV rapids - Twisted Sister, Three Beauties, and Middlesex Dam. Each trip includes two runs down the Lowell reach of the Concord. Adventurous rafters 14 and older are welcome. Your trip concludes with passage through an 1850s lock chamber that brings you right into downtown, seeing the city like never before. A portion of the proceeds support the Trust's work on the Concord River.” Call (800) 532-7483 for reservations, click [here](#) to read a recent article, or click [here](#) for more info or to view the slide show or video.

(Listings are continued on the next page)

April 25 – May 1

April 25 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *River Walk workday*, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, sponsored by [Housatonic River Walk](#). “Help clean-up and restore the riverbanks along the Housatonic River Walk. Volunteers are most welcome to clean-up and restore the Housatonic Riverbank in Great Barrington and continue the Housatonic River Walk trail. River Walk is a ½ mile public walking trail entering between Rite Aid Pharmacy and Pink Cloud on Main Street. Another section of trail follows the river along Berkshire Corporation and the old Searles Middle School. Workdays may take place in one or both places. This year we focus on removing ‘invasive exotics’ and replanting with native trees, shrubs and plants, including wetland plants in the W.E.B. Du Bois River Garden, our riverside park, and the overlook honoring electrical inventor William Stanley. Wear safe, protective clothing, shoes with good traction, gloves and eye protection. River Walk is maintained and stewarded by our local Berkshire Greenagers. Lunch Provided.” Click [here](#) or [here](#) for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – SUDBURY- ASSABET - CONCORD WATERSHED – *Musketaquid Earth Day 25th Anniversary Celebration in Concord*, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, sponsored by the [Umbrella Center for the Arts](#). This annual event includes a morning River Ceremony, the Earth Day Parade through Concord Center, and an Arts and Environment Festival involving many local collaborating organizations. In the months leading up to Earth Day, Musketaquid sponsors many different workshops in which participants can create Earth Floats, puppets, costumes, musical instruments, and more, for the event. Earth Day 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of [Musketaquid Arts and Environment](#). Click [here](#), call the Musketaquid Information Line at (978) 371-0820 ext. 213, or email musketaquid@emersonumbrella.org for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – STATEWIDE – *Park Serve Day*, sponsored by the [Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation](#) (DCR). Park Serve Day is an opportunity to pitch in and help spruce up the Commonwealth’s forests and parks. “During this statewide day of volunteer service, we will work together to get parks and beaches across Massachusetts ready for the year by cleaning coastlines, clearing trails, planting flowers, painting picnic tables, and more. Click [here](#) or [here](#) for more info on [opportunities to participate in a Park Serve Day activity near you](#). If you need help finding contact information for the supervisor at your local park, call or email us at (617) 626-1250 or mass.parks@state.ma.us”.

April 25 (Saturday) – LITTLE RIVER and ALEWIFE BROOK (MYSTIC WATERSHED) – *Alewife Reservation Earth Day Cleanup*, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Cambridge, sponsored by the [Friends of Alewife Reservation](#) (FAR). Co-sponsored by [Green Cambridge](#) and in coordination with [DCR’s Park Serve Day](#), you are invited to help clean up areas along the Little River and Alewife Brook. The Cleanup day will feature trash removal, river debris removal, and some invasive plant removal. Refreshments and recruitment for local volunteer work will be included. All cleanup supplies will be provided. Meet at the Alewife Reservation parking lot, 15 Acorn Park Drive, Cambridge (see [map](#)). After the cleanup, at 2:00 PM, there may be a tour of the [new storm water wetland](#) by FAR president, Ellen Mass. The natural filtration system and restored habitat of various marsh types will be explained. Click [here](#) or contact FAR at info@friendsofalewifereservation.org or (617) 415-1884 for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – NEPONSET RIVER – *Quincy RiverWalk Clean-up/DCR Park Serve Day*, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. “Calling all volunteers! Join the Neponset River Watershed Association staff and the Department of Conservation and Recreation as we help to beautify the Quincy RiverWalk for a new season of outdoor activity. Park under the Neponset Bridge, between the Adams Inn and [Neponset Landing Apartments at 2 Hancock Street, Quincy](#). We’ll meet at the Neponset Landing Fishing Pier, adjacent to the Neponset Landing Apartments. Please RSVP to Nancy Fyler by emailing fyler@neponset.org or by calling (781) 575-0354, ext. 307. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Quincy RiverWalk, and [here](#) for a map.”

April 25 (Saturday) – SAUGUS RIVER (NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Earth Day Cleanup at Marshview Park* in Lynn, 9:30AM-12:00 Noon, part of [DCR's Park Serve Day](#). Volunteers will work together to clean up Marshview Park along the Saugus River in Lynn. Site is located adjacent to the Saugus River on Boston Street in Lynn, across from O'Briens. Gloves, bags and refreshments provided. All are welcome to help the [Saugus River Watershed Council](#) and MA DCR celebrate Earth Day by volunteering at this event. Click [here](#) for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – NASHUA RIVER – *DCR Park Serve Day: Nashua River Rail Trail*, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM in Groton, sponsored by the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). “The Nashua River Rail Trail is a local recreation treasure, a 12-mile paved trail for biking, walking, or running that extends from the center of Ayer through Groton, Pepperell, and Dunstable, before reaching Nashua, NH. Help keep the rail trail clean and beautiful for all to use. Meet at Sand Hill Parking lot on Nod Road in Groton (see [map](#)) and help pick up litter and debris to get the summer season off on the right start!” Click [here](#) to register or for more info, or, to discuss any special accommodations or needs you may have for the day, please call (978) 597-8802, or write to mass.parks@state.ma.us.

April 25 (Saturday) – MERRIMACK and SHAWSHEEN RIVERS – *Earth Day River Cleanup* in Lawrence, 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by [Groundwork Lawrence](#). “We hope you will join us for our biggest community event all year! Earth Day, also [Comcast Cares Day](#), begins at 8:00AM at [Pemberton Park](#) in Lawrence with a light breakfast and welcome remarks by local leaders. Volunteers then transition to various spots around the city to spruce up parks, streets and other open spaces. The day wraps up at 12:00 Noon with a lunch and music to give thanks to our volunteers.” For more info, general questions, and to learn how you can lead a project, please email [Rosa Pina](mailto:Rosa.Pina) or call her at (978) 974-0770 ext. 7001, or click [here](#) for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – MYSTIC RIVER – *River, etc. Cleanup*, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon in Somerville. [Groundwork Somerville](#) is hosting [Comcast Cares Day with the City of Somerville](#) at the [Blessing of the Bay Boathouse](#), and 11 other sites around the City including South Street Farm, the Community Path and Union Square. Click [here](#) to see the full list of locations. Pick a site and come out to get ready for spring! Events will be followed by a BBQ at 12:00 Noon at the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse on Shore Drive. Click [here](#) or write to Chris Mancini at chris@groundworksomerville.org for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – MYSTIC RIVER – *Mystic River Earth Day Cleanup*, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by the [Mystic River Watershed Association](#) (MyRWA). Volunteers should meet at the DCR Torbert MacDonald Park parking lot off of Mystic Valley Parkway/Route 16 in Medford (see [map](#)). The event is also accessible by the MBTA Wellington Station on the Orange Line. All supplies will be provided. Rain or shine. Click [here](#) to register or contact Andrea at Andrea@MysticRiver.org or (781) 316-3438 for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – MYSTIC RIVER – *Friends of the Mystic River 20th Annual Spring Cleanup* in Medford, 9:30AM – 1:00PM, sponsored by the [Friends of the Mystic River](#). Meet at the [Hormel Stadium parking lot, 90 Locust St. in Medford](#). The cleanup includes the Mystic Riverbend Park, MacDonald Park and Wellington Greenway, but participants may travel to any other locations they wish to work on along the Mystic in Medford. Cleanup supplies will be provided. Morning and lunchtime refreshments provided. In the event of heavy rain, the cleanup will be Sunday, April 26. Call (781) 391-2604 or email Mystic02155@hotmail.com for more info, and click [here](#) for more info on this and other Mystic River watershed cleanups taking place this spring.

April 25 (Saturday) – STATEWIDE – *9th Annual “Work for Wildlife” Statewide Volunteer Day*, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by the [Massachusetts Audubon Society](#). You’re invited to pitch in on projects at sixteen of Mass. Audubon’s sanctuaries, almost all of which include rivers, streams and/or wetlands. Many projects can accommodate people of all ages, so bring your family or a group of friends and spend a morning working for wildlife. No special skills required – just a desire to make a difference while enjoying the outdoors. Click [here](#) or more details and to sign up to volunteer on 4/25, and click [here](#) for info on other volunteer work opportunities at Mass. Audubon sanctuaries.

April 25 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Canoe Meadows Cleanup Day*, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at the [Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Pittsfield, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Berkshire Sanctuaries](#). "Help us restore our grassland habitat by removing invasive shrubs along an old hedgerow. Volunteers are invited to join us for a Naturalist-led presentation after the work. Then we'll enjoy a pizza lunch together and celebrate our hard work!. Wear appropriate footwear. Because lunch is provided, pre-registration is requested. This is a free program. To register for the Canoe Meadows Cleanup Day, please contact Candice Farrell [(413) 637-0320 or cfarrell@massaudubon.org]. Click [here](#) for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *"Our Amazing Spring Wildflowers:" Guided Walk* at [Bartholomew's Cobble](#) in Sheffield, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by [The Trustees of Reservations](#). "Sheffield is a global hotspot for rare species – and Bartholomew's Cobble puts on one of the best shows of spring ephemerals from mid-April to mid-May. Come greet the rich variety of wildflowers, and leave with an understanding of how to help identify and protect these gems of our native flora – not just in conservation lands, but in your own yard and the open spaces of your community. A Trustees naturalist will demonstrate what makes this particular environment so well-suited to rare and diverse plants and explain what the Cobble is doing to protect the natural resilience of this landscape. You'll see trilliums, trout-lilies, Dutchman's breeches, wild ginger and many more! Please pre-register." Click [here](#) or call (413) 229-8600 to sign up or for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *Westfield Earth Day Cleanup*, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, sponsored by the City of Westfield. Meet at the [Masonic Lodge, 72 Broad Street](#). "Bring waterproof boots, work gloves, and a desire to help clean the environment! Walk-ins Welcome! The event takes place Rain or Shine. We gather at the local mason's lodge, have some coffee, grab supplies such as bags and gloves, and head out to different locations around the city. The trash is then picked up by the DPW. Then everyone heads back to the lodge for burgers and hot dogs. Children must be accompanied by an adult." Contact Karen Leigh [k.leigh@cityofwestfield.org, (413) 642-9308] to sign up or for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – WESTFIELD and CONNECTICUT RIVERS – *Spring River Cleanup*, 9:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Westfield River Watershed Association](#). "Come out to help us clean accumulated trash and debris from the riverbanks at several sites that will be chosen based on spring surveys. A good way to celebrate Earth Day! The Westfield group will meet at 9:00 AM at the municipal parking lot on Meadow Street (just east of the Great River bridges), while the Agawam group will meet at Pynchon Point on River Road (near the mouth of the river). We'll supply gloves and trash bags (though, if you've got your own gloves, please bring them). Be prepared to get wet and dirty. Contact [Mark Damon](#) [(413) 977-1577] with questions about Westfield's event, or [Sheryl Becker](#) [(413) 374-1921] with questions about the Agawam cleanup." Click [here](#) for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *Biking on the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail* in Westfield, 11:00 AM start, sponsored by [The Naturalists Club](#). "A new portion of this bike path extends towards Westfield Center, which we can examine if the group wants to, but the main portion of this ride will be south into Southwick and perhaps into Connecticut. The trail passes through a variety of habitats that may yield some interesting stops along the way." Meet where the Rail Trail crosses Shaker Rd (see [map](#)). Pre-registration is not necessary. Click [here](#) or contact trip leader Dave Lovejoy [(413) 848-2047] for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Exploring Dinosaur Valley: Best Place in the World to Study Geology*, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, sponsored by Greenfield Community College (GCC)'s [Pioneer Valley Institute](#). "Join Professor Richard Little for a tour through early Mesozoic time (Triassic and Jurassic Periods) and see evidence of continental drift, dinosaurs, lava flows, and a place where the rare armored mud balls were formed. We will start at the GCC Rock Park and then travel to Highland Park, Poet's Seat, Stop and Shop, and eastward along Route 2 to the base of the French King Bridge (Dorsey Rd). This popular program has been offered previously. Come again! You are guaranteed to find 'faults' with this trip. Park in Lot F and walk to the rear of the GCC Main Building, location of the GCC Rock Park. Heavy rain cancels." Click [here](#) for more info, or contact Professor Little at (413) 527-8536 or rdlittle2000@aol.com.

April 25 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Sturgeon Spawning Celebration at the Rock Dam: a science/natural history walk*, 10:30 AM –12:30 PM, sponsored by the UMass Student Fisheries Society. “Join Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon expert Dr. Boyd Kynard and environmental journalist Karl Meyer for a walk to the Rock Dam in Turners Falls, MA, preeminent spawning site for a 200 million year old evolutionary gem. Meyer will sketch a four-century overview of the Rock Dam site, a unique, partially-inundated cliff bisecting the river. Kynard, an Adjunct UMass Professor who spent 25 years as a federal researcher, details the sturgeon’s life cycle, and shares results from three decades studying its life history and behavior. That science, published in book form in 2012, details the changes required in damaging hydro flows to simply allow this federally-endangered species to successfully spawn at its natural spawning site in the river – and to finally begin its journey toward recovery. Wear sturdy shoes; bring lunch. Meets rain or shine in Turners Falls at the public lot on G Street. Public welcome; no pre-registration necessary”. Click [here](#) or call (413) 773-0006 for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Great Blue Herons and Bald Eagles*, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM at [Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Easthampton, sponsored by Mass. Audubon. “The great blue heron, not to be confused with the pterodactyl, is a prehistoric-looking majestic wading bird. Arcadia has been home to a communal rookery (nesting area) of over 50 nests for over 10 years. The spring of 2012 brought a new resident setting up house-keeping in the rookery, a pair of bald eagles. In 2013 this pair of eagles fledged two young, the first and currently only known eagles to nest and fledge on a Mass Audubon property. Last year also saw a new resident, a pair of great horned owls. We cannot guarantee who will be in the nests this year, but there is sure to be excitement. Come learn about the ecology and behavior of the herons and other family members through a brief slide show. Afterward, we will drive or walk a short distance to view a rookery where we hope to see both herons and eagles”. Fee: Adults \$10/members, \$15/non-members. Click [here](#) or call or call (413) 584-3009 to sign up or for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – SEVEN MILE RIVER (CHICOPEE WATERSHED) – *Paddle the Seven Mile River* in Spencer, sponsored by the [Worcester Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). “Join us for this leisurely, scenic paddle down a winding river in Spencer off Route 31. Some challenge involved, but not difficult. Bring necessary paddle gear. PFDs, water and lunch/snacks required. All attendees must pre-register. No exceptions. Click [here](#) or contact trip Leader Elaine Cibelli [elaine_cibelli@hotmail.com] or (508) 832-9060 (best time to call: before 9:30 PM)] to sign up or for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – FRENCH RIVER – *Flatwater paddle* from Hodges Village Dam in Oxford to Collins Cove in Dudley, 9:00 AM start, sponsored by the [French River Connection](#). This leisurely river paddle will begin in Augetteback Pond off Howarth Road in Oxford (see [map](#)), located just below the U.S. Army Corps’s [Hodges Village Dam Flood Control Project](#). Paddlers will enjoy an easy flowing river that meanders through marshlands and woodlands. While the current is relatively gentle, some maneuvering may be required to get around trees in and along the river. There should be opportunities to see some wildlife that inhabit the French River, including turtles, great blue heron, geese, ducks, and beavers. The trip is suitable for paddlers with moving water experience. PFDs are absolutely required and must be worn. There is no charge for this trip. As the water will still be cold, appropriate clothing is strongly recommended. This event is “BYOB” (bring your own boat). Contact trip leader Jay Wade at (508) 461-9813 for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – *16th Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup*, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by the [Charles River Watershed Association](#) (CRWA). “Join the CRWA and partner organizations for this annual event, where thousands of volunteers and community groups come together to beautify the banks of the Charles River from Bellingham to Boston! This annual event provides volunteers the opportunity to contribute positively to the river’s health, while developing a connection to some of Massachusetts’ most precious natural resources that far outlasts this one-day event. Joining a movement across the country, the Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup is a part of [American Rivers’ National River Cleanup®](#), which to date has removed over 4 million pounds of trash from America’s waterways.” Click [here](#) for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – “Stormwater Faire”, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, hosted by the [Parker River National Wildlife Refuge](#) and taking place at the [Refuge’s Visitors Center, 6 Plum Island Turnpike, in Newburyport](#) (click [here](#) for a map). “Sponsored by local water conservation agencies [including the [Merrimack River Watershed Council](#)], this is a fun and informative event for kids. They will learn about the importance of water conservation through hands-on activities. Through handouts and lessons, kids will then be able to apply what they learn to their water conservation practices at home. They can even earn a ‘Water Protector’ badge for completing activity stations”. Click [here](#), [here](#), or call (978) 465-5753 for more info on this free event.

April 25 (Saturday) – HOCKOMOCK SWAMP (TAUNTON WATERSHED) – *Birding Hockomock Swamp*, 8:00 AM start, sponsored by the [South Shore Bird Club](#). “We will visit a number of areas that access the vast Hockomock Swamp, an enormous wetland covering portions of Taunton, Raynham, Easton and West Bridgewater (as well as other nearby communities). Early migrating passerines should be present, but we will look for a variety of birds in other habitats that abut the swamp. Waterproof boots/footwear recommended. Meet at the commuter lot at the junction of Rtes. 24 & 106 (lot is on the west side of Rte. 24). Click [here](#) or contact Trip leader Jim Sweeney (401) 465-6668, assawompsett@yahoo.com] for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED – *Cape Cod Canal Cleanup*, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, sponsored by [AmeriCorps Cape Cod](#). “Canal Clean-Up is an Earth Week volunteer event organized in partnership between the Army Corps of Engineers and AmeriCorps Cape Cod. Every year since 2000, over 200 volunteers come annually to walk along the banks of the Cape Cod Canal and pick up hundreds of pounds of trash. The Cape Cod Canal is the widest sea-level canal in the world! It is 480 feet wide and cuts through about 7 miles of land, and technically makes Cape Cod an island. It is maintained and operated by the Army Corps of Engineers. Many people walk, bike, and fish along the Canal’s service roads and shores, and it provides many recreation opportunities for the Upper Cape community. Canal Clean-Up is a great opportunity to serve the community, but it’s also a lot of fun! Past events have featured live music, environmental education booths, face painting, tie-dyeing, and refreshments for volunteers.” Click [here](#), [here](#), write to brittany.quaglieri@barnstablecounty.org, or call (508) 375-6863 for more info.

April 25 (Saturday) – WELLFLEET BAY (CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED) – *Exploring Vernal Pools*, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, at [Mass Audubon’s Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Vernal pools are temporary pools of water that provide a special home for certain types of plants and animals. We’ll search for frogs, salamanders, and insects and play games along the way to learn why vernal pools and other wetlands are important habitats. Be sure to wear shoes that can get muddy. Recommended for children age 4 and older with a caregiver.” Fee: \$7.00 members, \$9.00 non-members. Click [here](#) to register or for more info.

April 25-26 (Saturday-Sunday) – TOWN BROOK (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Herring Run Festival* in Plymouth, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM, sponsored by [Plimoth Plantation](#), with the Town of Plymouth and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The event takes place at [Plimoth Grist Mill at Jenny Pond \(6 Spring Lane, Plymouth\)](#). “Nestled on Town Brook, Plimoth Grist Mill is the place to be to witness the spectacle of the annual Alewife (river herring) migration. Each spring over 100,000 alewives ascend the mill’s fishway on their way to spawn in Billington Sea, then pass by again on their return trip to the ocean. Join us for our second annual Herring Run Festival and help us celebrate the wondrous and humble herring! Mother Nature permitting, witness the herring make their annual run up Town Brook. Visit with scientists and learn about their efforts to restore herring populations, get a close-up view of the herring, and help collect valuable data by counting the fish! The festival will feature tours of the fish run, hands-on activities for kids, and music. Plimoth Grist Mill will be grinding organic cornmeal and sampe (grits) while sharing samples of our favorite corn dishes. Fee: Free with Museum Admission: Adults \$6 and Children (5-12) \$4.50. Contact Plimoth Plantation at (508) 746-1622, extension 8346, or click [here](#) or [here](#) for more info. At 11:00 AM on Saturday, join us for a celebration event commemorating the removal of the Plymco Dam from Town Brook (click [here](#) for more about this project). Watch as thousands of herring swim up Town Brook to their ancestral spawning grounds at the Billington Sea. Scientists from the Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) and the [NOAA Restoration Center](#) will be leading brief walking tours along the Brook and discussing the importance of herring to our regional ecosystem.” [Kick off the Herring Run

Festival on [Friday, April 24 with a film and discussion event](#) hosted by Douglas Watts, author of the book [Alewife](#). The award-winning film [DamNation](#) is a powerful odyssey across America exploring the changing views of dams and their environmental impact. Following the film, a panel of environmental experts will discuss Plymouth's dam removal and river restoration efforts.]

April 26 (Sunday) – QUINEBAUG RIVER – *All American River Race* in Sturbridge, sponsored by the [Sturbridge Lions Club](#). This is an annual timed race of over six miles, starting one craft each minute. Registration begins at 9:00 AM at Turners Field, off of Route 20 in Fiskdale. The first boat is sent off at 11:01 AM and heads for the finish line at the Army Corps' [Westville Dam Recreational Area](#) in Southbridge. Trophies are given to the first three finishers in each class. The Westville Dam Recreational Area features food and entertainment as well as strategic viewing spots to see the craft negotiate the rapids area. Click [here](#), [here](#), or contact Chairman Lion Dale Favreau at (508) 347-9636 or Randy Peppard at rpeppard@msn.com for more info.

April 26 (Sunday) – SUDBURY WATERSHED – *Vernal Pool Exploration with Matt Burne*, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM in Lincoln, co-sponsored by the [Lincoln Land Conservation Trust](#), the [Walden Woods Project](#), and the [Lincoln Conservation Commission](#). "Matt Burne, a herpetologist and Conservation Director for the Walden Woods Project, will lead a walk to explore vernal pools in Lincoln. Participants will visit some local wetlands for signs of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and fairy shrimp, learn about the importance of vernal pools and how to protect them. No doubt many people have heard the wood frogs' duck-like calls and the high-pitched chorus of tiny spring peepers, a species of tree frog. Participants should wear footwear for a one-two mile walk. Please park and meet at the far end of the [Donelans parking lot at 145 Lincoln Rd](#). Click [here](#) or call (857) 234-2476 for more info on this free event.

April 26 (Sunday) – SUDBURY RIVER – *Hike to Walden Pond and the Sudbury River*, 10:30 AM start, sponsored by the [Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). "A six-mile hike on less-traveled paths. Meet at 10:30 AM near the restrooms at the Mass. DCR Walden Pond Reservation parking lot (parking fee). While pre-registration is not required for [this activity](#), you may wish to contact the trip leader [Jim Laughlin, (617) 923-8039] if you have any questions."

April 26 (Sunday) – CONCORD RIVER – *Spring Middlesex Canal Walk*, 1:30 PM start in North Billerica, co-sponsored by the [Middlesex Canal Association](#) and the [Appalachian Mountain Club Boston Chapter's Local Walks Committee](#). Meet at the [Middlesex Canal Museum and Visitor Center in the Faulkner Mill](#) in North Billerica. "The walk will be for 2-3 hours, rain or shine, over generally level wooded terrain and streets. The route follows the canal for a round trip of under 3 miles south of the Concord River. Sites to be visited include: two guard locks; an anchor stone and the 'peninsula' at the opposite ends of the floating bridge that once carried the towpath across the Concord; the 1825 iron bolt pond-level reference; the 'deep cut'; a smallpox memorial marker; stretches of canal, some of which are still watered; and possibly the impending photovoltaic facility on High St. The Museum and Bookstore will be open from 12:00 Noon -4:00 PM." Click [here](#), [here](#), call (978) 670-2740, trip leader Robert Winters [(617) 661-9230 or robert@middlesexcanal.org], or co-leader Roger Hagopian [(781) 861-7868 before 10:00 PM) for more info.

April 26 (Sunday) – CHARLES RIVER – *33rd Annual Run of the Charles Canoe and Kayak Race*, sponsored by the [Charles River Watershed Association](#). New England's largest canoe and kayak race, "ROTC" features a variety of races for all skill levels, from expert to novice: 6, 9, and 19 mile races, a 24-mile, five-leg canoe relay race, and a 26-mile professional marathon. The event showcases the ongoing improvements in the Charles River, while drawing 1,500 paddlers and hundreds of spectators to enjoy a day on and along the river. Click [here](#) to register or for more info, or contact [Alexandra Ash](#) or write to rotc@crwa.org for more info on any aspect of the race and related events.

April 26 (Sunday) – MUDDY RIVER (CHARLES WATERSHED) – *Olmsted's Birthday Celebration*, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM in the Back Bay, hosted by the [Emerald Necklace Conservancy](#). "Each year, the Conservancy celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted on April 26 by hosting special activities at the [Shattuck Visitor Center](#) (located in the Back Bay Fens, across the street from the Museum of Fine Arts). We invite

you to stop by for cake and more. All activities are free and open to the public. The events include: a screening of the 50-minute film, 'Olmsted and America's Urban Parks' (filmed in 2010, this documentary features several local Olmsted specialists and scholars); cake cutting with special guest, Mr. Olmsted (as portrayed by Gerry Wright), and a screening of 'Discover the Emerald Necklace', a 30-minute episode of NHPTV's award-winning program, "Windows to the Wild" (in this episode, host Will Lang explores the Emerald Necklace parks accompanied by docents, members of the conservancy's youth programs and park friends). Click [here](#) for more info.

April 26 (Sunday) – IPSWICH WATERSHED – *Sea Kayak Camping Workshop*, 12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM in Topsfield, sponsored by the [North Shore Paddlers Network](#). "Most people enjoy the freedom and connection with the environment that both kayaking and backpacking provide. For some of us, we have combined the two by loading our kayaks with all we need for an overnight stay on a local island, or a multi-week adventure in remote locations. No matter which is your preference, kayak camping takes the adventure to a whole new level! NSPN will be holding another annual Sea Kayak Camping Workshop as a means to introduce the sport to those who have camped but never kayaked, those who have kayaked but never camped, and even those who have never kayaked or camped, but are interested in both." Click [here](#) or write to skcw@nspn.org for more info on this free event.

April 26 (Sunday) – NORTH RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Herring on the Run*, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at [Mass. Audubon's North River Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Marshfield, co-sponsored by the [North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#) (NSRWA). "With April's thaw, comes an instinctual, age-old pattern. With a flash of silver, blue, and black, common herring, American shad, alewife, and bluebacks, species of anadromous fish, begin their race up-river to reach their historic spawning grounds. The amazing part of this process is that they possess a homing instinct that draws them to the same river that they were born. Herring have been an important part of our state's heritage since their bony, oily bodies were used by Native Americans and pioneers to fertilize corn fields. Larger herrings are an important source of food sold all over the world, and can be dried, smoked, salted, or pickled. Join NSRWA ecologists on a van tour of the local herring runs. Listen to enlivening stories depicting the history, science and social significance of herring runs and our efforts to restore them. If we are lucky we might see some actual herring making their way upstream to spawn!" Fee: Adults \$12/members, \$15/non-members. Click [here](#), [here](#), or call (781) 837-9400 to register or for more info.

April 26 (Sunday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Screening of the documentary movie "The Breach"*, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM at [Theatre 1 \(200 Stuart St., Boston\)](#) sponsored by the Bristol Bay (AK) Regional Seafood Development Association (BBRSDA) and Trout Unlimited (TU). "[The Breach](#) follows fishing guide/filmmaker Mark Titus, who embarks on a journey to discover why wild salmon populations plummeted in his native Pacific Northwest, and what might bring them back. Along the way, Titus unravels a trail of human hubris, historical amnesia and potential tragedy looming in Bristol Bay, Alaska – all conspiring to end the most vital wild food left on the planet. Weaving together captivating interviews, original artwork, archival photos and underwater footage, Titus spins a compelling story about wild salmon, our food choices and the impact we have on our precious waters. The Breach features fishermen, tribal leaders, scientists, artists, authors and chefs - all with a shared knowledge and passion for wild salmon as cultural treasure and nourishing food source. The \$20/person ticket price includes entry to screening and special wild Alaska salmon reception. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets and [here](#) for more info on the film.

April 27 (Monday) – MILL RIVER (CONNECTICUT WATERSHED) – *"The River Runs Through Us: Life Along the Mill River"*, a presentation by students in the course Public History Workshop, UMass/Amherst, in partnership with the [Mill River Greenway Initiative](#). The presentation will take place from 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM at Historic Northampton, 46 Bridge Street in Northampton. "Since January 2015, a team of UMass/Amherst students has been developing a six-panel outdoor exhibit on the history of the Mill River proposed for a site near the River in Florence. The exhibit explores the history of agriculture, industry, flood control, and environmental contamination and clean-up, telling stories of the diverse peoples and dramatic events that shaped the river over the past four centuries. The students will be presenting a draft version of their project to the public for comments. Please come, offer your feedback, and share your ideas". Click [here](#) for more info.

April 27 (Monday) – CHARLES RIVER – *14th Annual Meeting of The Esplanade Association*, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, at the Hampshire House, 84 Beacon St., Boston. “Get an update of what we’ve been doing—with your help—in the park. Hear landscape historian, Elizabeth Hope Cushing, talk in detail about Arthur Shurcliff’s influence of the Charles River Esplanade Landscape.” Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info on this free event.

April 28 (Tuesday) – TOWN RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Up and Over, Around and Through – Dam Management’s Role in Fish Passage & Stream Restoration*, 7:30 AM – 12:00 Noon at Plimoth Plantation, co-sponsored by the [Environmental Business Council](#) and the [Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership](#). “Fish passage and river restoration are primary drivers of the rapidly-accelerating dam removal / modification paradigm sweeping New England and the nation. Dam removal projects produce a host of benefits—hazard mitigation, flood reduction, water quality improvements, and sediment transport among them—but the goal of restoring fish habitat is unique in galvanizing the support (and associated funding) of numerous government, non-profit, corporate and volunteer stakeholders. Whether it’s Shad, Herring, and Eel in the Wood-Pawcatuck River; Atlantic Salmon in the Penobscot River; Brook Trout in the Eel River; or River Herring in Town Brook, support and funding follow the fish. From the vantage of river restoration, dam removal is the preferred alternative for fish passage, restoring the river to a natural state and permanently eliminating associated hazards and maintenance costs. When dam removal is not possible or preferred due to other interests and constraints, a number of solutions have been implemented to get fish up and over, around and through. This EBC Dam Management program will describe the factors impacting selection of a site-specific fish passage strategy, present examples of several fish passage solutions and what led to their selection, and conclude with lunch overlooking a fish passage in full swim, the annual Herring run in Town Brook!” Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

April 28 (Tuesday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Screening of the documentary movie DamNation*, 6:30 PM, part of the [2015 Eco Film Series: Land, Air, and Water](#), sponsored by the [Lowell Parks and Conservation Land Trust](#). “This powerful film explores the change in our national attitude from pride in big dams as engineering wonders to the growing awareness that our own future is bound to the life and health of our rivers. Where obsolete dams come down, rivers bound back to life, giving salmon and other wild fish the right of return to primeval spawning grounds, after decades without access. *DamNation*’s majestic cinematography and unexpected discoveries move through rivers and landscapes altered by dams, but also through a metamorphosis in values, from conquest of the natural world to knowing ourselves as part of nature.” The screening takes place at the Lowell National Historical Park Visitor Center, 246 Market St. (parking is located at 304 Dutton Street). Click [here](#) for more info.

April 29 (Wednesday) – JACKSON POND (HOUSATONIC WATERSHED) – *Jackson Pond Bird Walk*, 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM, sponsored by the [Berkshire Natural Resources Council](#). “This walk will help take you from feeder birds (blue jays, chickadees) to the birds of field and forest. Can’t tell a robin from a crow? No shame – we’ll show you how we do it. After just one walk you’ll amaze your friends with cheap birding tricks! Join BNRC and the Hoffmann Bird Club at Jackson Pond on Old Colonial Road, Stockbridge, for a bird walk at a gorgeous wetland. Terrain is town roads and elevated boardwalk. Bring water and a snack. Meet at the Stockbridge Bowl boat launch on Route 183, 0.4 miles south of Kripalu.” Click [here](#) or contact Doug at dbruce@bnrc.net or (413) 499-0596 for more info.

April 29 (Wednesday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Bird Walk at the Stebbins Refuge*, 7:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Allen Bird Club](#). Expect to see water birds and arriving songbirds. Bring footwear appropriate for wet trails. Meet at [Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge](#) sign on [Bark Haul and Pondsides Roads in Longmeadow](#). Click [here](#) or contact Al & Lois Richardson [(413) 736-0846, ALNLOISR@aol.com] for more info. [Similar events are scheduled for 5/6, 5/13, and 5/20.]

April 29 (Wednesday) – NASHUA RIVER – *“Linking Landscapes” presentation* in Groton, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, co-sponsored by the [Nashua River Watershed Association](#) and [Groton Turtle Conservation](#). David Paulson of the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) will talk about the cooperative effort between NHESP and the MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to identify areas on roadways with high levels of wildlife crossings and mortalities, and how the [Linking Landscapes](#) program enlists “citizen scientists” to help

identify wildlife crossing hotspots where action might be necessary to reduce animal/wildlife collisions. This presentation will have a special focus on turtles of Massachusetts, including identification and natural history. Turtles have existed for millions of years, but roadways are threatening the survival of local populations. David will share the results from the first year of data collection for the Turtle Roadway Mortality Monitoring Program. The presentation will take place at the NRWA's River Resource Center, 592 Main Street (Rt. 119) in Groton. Click [here](#) or contact Pam Gilfillan, NRWA Development Associate [PamG@NashuaRiverWatershed.org, (978) 448-0299] for more info.

April 29 (Wednesday) – NASHUA RIVER – *Stream Ecology Workshop*, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the [Devens Common Center](#), sponsored by the [Nashua River Watershed Association](#). “The NRWA invites the public, including families, scout groups and seniors, to learn what it takes to determine the health of a river or stream. Participants will learn about water quality and invasive plants in the Nashua River and its tributaries. You'll also receive hands-on training on determining the health of a stream by aquatic bug identification, streamside observations, and exploring the effects of stormwater runoff. Learn how this information will help your community.” Click [here](#) or contact Kathryn Nelson, the NRWA's Water Monitoring Coordinator, at KathrynN@NashuaRiverWatershed.org, for more info on this free, indoor event.

April 30 (Thursday) – BLACKSTONE RIVER – *Worcester's Water Quality Summit*, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM at Mass. Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, [414 Massasoit Road in Worcester](#), sponsored by the [Blackstone Headwaters Coalition](#). “Worcester has been working hard to improve the urban environment, and many more water quality efforts are in the works. Come hear DPW&P Commissioner Paul Moosey give an update on current & future efforts and updates on several projects supporting Worcester's Waterways: plans for the new Visitor's Center in Quinsigamond Village; the value of urban trees and rain gardens; improvements to Middle River Park; and efforts to improve swimming at Indian Lake & Coes Pond. The event is free and open to the public; refreshments will be served. Come and show support for the greening of Worcester!” Contact Peter Coffin [peter.coffin@zaptheblackstone.org or (508) 753-6087] for more info.

May 1-31 – NATIONWIDE – *American Wetlands Month* – click [here](#) for more info.

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May 2 – May 8

May 2 (Saturday) – SWIFT RIVER (CHICOPEE WATERSHED) – *Birding the Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area and Lake Wallace*, 6:30 AM – 1:00 PM, sponsored by the [Hampshire Bird Club](#) (HBC). “Aidan and Devin Griffiths go where no HBC trip leader has ever gone before. Explore these two sites with a pair of local experts, then perhaps head over to the Quabbin headquarters to see what's on the water.” Click [here](#) or contact Devin [(413) 323-8417] to get meeting details and for more information.

May 2 (Saturday) – CEDAR SWAMP (CHICOPEE WATERSHED) – *Birding Exploration of Cedar Swamp in Wilbraham*, 7:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Allen Bird Club](#). Expect to see arriving songbirds in this Atlantic White Cedar swamp, an unusual plant community for western Massachusetts. Meet at [Wilbraham Middle School on Stony Hill Road](#) in Wilbraham. Bring water and a snack. Click [here](#) or contact Kate Leary [(413) 596-9643] or Bobby Olsen [(413) 596-6990] for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – CHICOPEE WATERSHED – *Beyond the Honey Bee: Conserving Our Vital Native Pollinators*, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM at the [Harvard Forest in Petersham](#), co-sponsored by the [Hubbardston-Ware River Nature Club](#) and the [East Quabbin Land Trust](#). “The purpose of this event is to increase awareness and provide information and resources to people who want to manage their properties to benefit native pollinators. It is designed for small landowners, public lands managers, small farmers, backyard gardeners, and others who want to manage open space with native pollinator needs in mind. Speakers include Dr. Rob Geegar of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, naturalists Gail Howe Trenholm and Charley Eiseman, Dr. Anne Averill of UMass-Amherst, Tom Sullivan of PollinatorsWelcome.com, and author and garden coach Ellen Sousa.” Click [here](#) for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *River Walk: Native American History*, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon in Turners Falls, co-sponsored by the [Connecticut River Watershed Council](#) and the [Nolumbeka Project](#). “Join the Nolumbeka Project and CRWC to learn about 10,000 years of Native American presence near the Great Falls. Learn from and speak to experts in the Native American history of this area, culminating in the Turners Falls massacre during King Phillips War in 1676. Meet at the Unity Park/bike path gravel parking area on First St in Turners Falls. Involves leisurely walking along paved bike path for 1-1.5 miles. Accessible to all; dogs on leashes welcome. Free (donations appreciated)”. Click [here](#), [here](#) or call (413) 772-2020 for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – CHAPEL BROOK (DEERFIELD WATERSHED) – *Chapel Brook Falls and Hike to Summit of Pony Mountain* at The Trustees of Reservations’ [Chapel Brook Reservation](#) in Ashfield, 10:00 AM start, sponsored by [The Naturalists Club](#). “Chapel Brook Falls is a special place with its rugged beauty of ridges and forest. Some old growth trees dot the landscape and wildflowers cover the forest floor. Chapel Brook has streams that surge and trickle with the seasons except when spectacular Chapel Falls are in full roar, and they will be roaring this year! After we explore the falls, we will hike the summit trail to the top of Pony Mountain. It’s a short and exhilarating hike to the top. The panoramic views of the highland forest and the foothills of the Berkshires are well worth the hike. Don’t forget to bring snacks or lunch, and a camera.” Contact trip leaders Dave and Suzy Gallup [(413) 525-4697] if you are coming (they are carpooling from W. Springfield).

May 2 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – “*Walk the Talk*” in downtown Great Barrington, 10:00 AM start, sponsored by Berkshares. Walkers will gather at Great Barrington Town Hall at 10:00 AM. The walking route will conclude at the Prairie Whale by 12:00 Noon. Some featured sites on the walk will include Railroad Street, the 100 Bridge Street development, and the [Housatonic River Walk](#) (see [map](#)). The walk is part of [Jane’s Walks](#), named after the late Jane Jacobs, an economist and community organizer active throughout the second half of the 20th century, famous for her book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Click [here](#) or [here](#) for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Botanizing Bartholomew’s Cobble*, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Sheffield, sponsored by the [New England Wild Flower Society](#). “Created by geologic upheavals when the Taconic and Berkshire mountain ranges were formed, this 100-foot-high bedrock outcropping supports roughly 800 species of plants, including rare ferns and wildflowers. Join us as we explore the outstanding diversity of plant life and enjoy the great views at this designated National Natural Landmark [[Bartholomew’s Cobble](#) is owned and managed by [The Trustees of Reservations](#)]. Bring a bag lunch. Instructor: Ted Elliman. Fee: \$37/member, \$46/non-member.” Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – QUABOAG RIVER (CHICOPEE WATERSHED) – *River/Lake cleanup* in Brookfield, 9:00 AM start, co-sponsored by the [Quaboag/Quacumquasit Lake Association](#) and the [Chicopee/4 Rivers Watershed](#). Meet at the [Quaboag boat launch](#). Write to chicopeewatershed@gmail.com to RSVP or for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – FRENCH RIVER – *Cleanup workday* along the [Perryville Trace](#) pathway in Webster, sponsored by the [French River Connection](#). Perryville, a scenic area along the French River, is located just north of the Connecticut border. Volunteers are welcome to help spruce up this riverside pathway for the coming season. Click [here](#) or contact Ed Bazinet at pondstage@charter.net for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – BLACKSTONE RIVER AND CANAL – *Family Fun Fishing Day*, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM at [River Bend Farm](#) in Uxbridge. This event is co-sponsored by [the Blackstone River Watershed Association](#), Alternatives, the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, MassWildlife and Trout Unlimited. Rain date is May 9, 2015. Family Fun Fishing Day offers the opportunity for people of all ages to try their hand at fishing along the Blackstone River and Canal. MassWildlife is providing fishing rods and reels but anyone is welcome to bring their own equipment. This is a catch-and-release fishing experience. Volunteers from Trout Unlimited and MA DCR will be on hand to teach casting methods and demonstrate fly tying. Games and other activities will also be provided. Food and beverages will be available for purchase from the Uxbridge First Holiday Night Food Truck. Please pre-register for the event at www.familyfunfishingday.com. Click [here](#), [here](#) or contact Susan Thomas at events@thebrwa.org for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Cheever House & Sudbury Path Walk*, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, sponsored by the [Wellesley Trails Committee](#). “Follow the Sudbury Path from Wellesley College’s Cheever House, an historic mansion in the Hunnewell Estates Historic District, to the Sudbury Aqueduct. Explore the trails along the Charles River, and cross over the Waban Arches, a 500-ft long stone bridge constructed in 1876 to carry water to Boston. Loop back through Nehoiden Golf Course, the oldest 9-hole course in the country. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Wellesley Centers for Women - Cheever House parking lot at 828 Washington St. Directions: Take Rte. 16 from the center of town toward Natick for 1.0 mile. Sign and driveway to the parking lot is on your left at the top of the hill.” Click [here](#) for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – NEPONSET RIVER – *Birding walk at Fowl Meadow*, 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM in Milton, sponsored by the [Neponset River Watershed Association](#) (NepRWA). “Join NepRWA Board Member Les Tyralla for a birding walk through Fowl Meadow. In early May, this will be a ‘birdy’ location, due to the near-peak of the spring migration and the habitat. Dress appropriately – and remember your binoculars and bird books. Plan to meet at the small parking lot (if needed, can park on the grassy shoulder) on Brush Hill Road at the intersection with the Neponset Valley Parkway. There is a canoe launch point here next to the stone arch/Paul’s Bridge over the Neponset River on the Readville/Milton line.) We will walk a mile or two on flat, possibly muddy paths near the river. The habitat is floodplain/swamp. This walk is limited to 15 people. Please RSVP to fyler@neponset.org or by calling (781) 575-0354, ext. 307.” Click [here](#) for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – CHELSEA CREEK (MYSTIC WATERSHED) – *Earth Day and Keep Chelsea Beautiful Day Clean-Up and Celebration*, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM in Chelsea, sponsored by the [Chelsea Collaborative](#). “We will be sweeping, picking up trash, planting trees and flowers and mulching throughout the city. Help us clean up the mess winter left behind! We will be having a BBQ and community celebration after the clean-up. Volunteers should meet at Chelsea City Hall Parking Lot, 500 Broadway, in Chelsea.” Click [here](#) or contact Maria Belén Power [(617) 889-6080 ext.115, MariaBelenP@ChelseaCollab.org] for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – QUINCY BAY (BOSTON HARBOR WATERSHED) – *Parks and Greenways walk* in Quincy, 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM, sponsored by the [Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). This will be a 7-mile walk with beach, woods, salt marshes and historic sites. Bring lunch. Directions: Take Quincy Shore Drive to Wollaston Yacht Club pier at Beach St.; or take the Red Line to Wollaston Station, and walk 1 mile to the pier. Email if severe weather. No dogs; non-AMC members \$1. While pre-registration is not required for this activity, you may want to click [here](#) or contact trip leader Mike Tuohey [breadcrumbs60@gmail.com] with any questions.

May 2 (Saturday) – NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *28th Annual River Clean Up Day*, 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon at [Conservation Park in Scituate](#) and other locations, sponsored by the [North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#) (NSRWA). “Join us and head out by foot, truck, or boat to remove trash and debris from the rivers, streams and marshes that make up the watershed. We will have gloves and bags available for those who want to join a team. Please contact Paula at paula@nsrwa.org or (781) 659-8168 for instructions. We are in particular need of people to be captains at the sites and volunteers with pickup trucks. The Clean Up is followed by a Celebratory Cookout at 12:00 Noon at the Driftway in Scituate, sponsored by Whole Foods Market.” Click [here](#) for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – CANOE RIVER (TAUNTON WATERSHED) – *Canoe River Awareness Day*, 10:00AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by the Town of Norton Water Department and the [Canoe River Aquifer Awareness Committee](#) (CRAAC). The event will take place at the Gertrude Cornish Town Forest, Plain St. in Norton. The guest speaker, A. Peter Mair, II, Senior archaeologist with the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., will discuss how archaeological investigations along the Canoe River have contributed to our understanding of the importance of this resource to past Native American activities. “Join us for a fun-filled morning of archaeology and natural history along the Canoe River in Norton!” Write to KGallo@easton.ma.us for more info.

May 2 (Saturday) – BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED – “Big Walk” at the [Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve](#), 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, sponsored by [The Trustees of Reservations](#). “Strap on your hiking boots and experience the vastness of the unbroken forest on a walk that spans the full length of the 13,600-acre Bioreserve. From old mill ponds and abandon farm sites to vernal pools and cedar swamps you won't believe the wilderness right in our own backyard. The full hike is 12 miles, but pick-ups will be available every few miles along the way and transportation will be provided back your car.” The hike begins at the Freetown/Fall River State Forest Headquarters, Slab Bridge Rd., Assonet (see [map](#)). Click [here](#), write to kheard@ttor.org or call (508) 636-4693 ext. 5003 for more info on this free event.

May 2 (Saturday) – MARSTONS MILLS RIVER (CAPE COD WATERSHED) – *Heading Upstream: An Alewife's Spawning Journey*, 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM, sponsored by (and beginning at) [Mass. Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Like other anadromous fish that live their lives in saltwater and ascend freshwater rivers to spawn, the alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*) makes its yearly pilgrimage up the Marstons Mills River to set in motion yet another generational cycle. This small and unassuming fish plays an immense role in the ecology of New England's inshore, coastal environment as forage for striped bass, bluefish, whales, gulls and ospreys. In this program, participants will learn interesting facts about the herring's lifecycle from expert Abigail Archer of the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension. The class will then venture into the field to visit a herring run on the Marstons Mills River and will hopefully witness these fish in their natural environment.” Fee: Adult \$7.00, Child \$5.00/members; Adult \$9.00, Child \$7.00/ non-members. Pre-registration is not required for this event. Click [here](#) or write to longpasture@massaudubon.org for more info.

May 3 (Sunday) – MUDDY RIVER (CHARLES WATERSHED) – *A Walk with Mr. Olmsted through the Back Bay Fens*, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM in Boston, sponsored by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. “See the Back Bay Fens through the eyes of the man who designed and built it. Join Frederick Law Olmsted, as portrayed by Gerry Wright, and an Emerald Necklace docent as they lead a walk through the historic landscape of the Fens. Learn how Mr. Olmsted transformed the area once described as ‘the foulest marsh and muddy flats to be found anywhere in Massachusetts’ into the first link in his chain of parks we know today as the Emerald Necklace. Hear the story of a remarkable life from the man himself. Meet your guide at the [Shattuck Visitor Center, 125 The Fenway](#). This event is free and open to the public; click [here](#) or call (617) 522-2700 for more info. (Similar walks are scheduled for 5/17 and 5/31.)

May 3 (Sunday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Fifth Annual Moody Street 5K Run*, 12:00 Noon start, benefitting the secondary schools of Waltham. The course starts on the Moody St. bridge over the Charles River, and the second half of the [race route](#) is the Riverwalk path along the river. Click [here](#) to sign up of for more info.

May 3 (Sunday) – NEPONSET RIVER – *Morning Bird Walk at Fowl Meadow*, 7:00 AM start, sponsored by the [South Shore Bird Club](#). “We will walk a few miles on flat, possibly muddy terrain. Habitat is forested floodplain swamp with remnant marsh. We should see many ‘first of the season’ birds on this trip. This traditional area has produced a good number and variety of migrants and summer residents, from rails and shorebirds through thrushes and warblers.” Meet at the small parking area on Brush Hill Road, close to the intersection with the Neponset Valley Parkway (see [map](#)). Click [here](#) or contact leader Patty O'Neill [pattyoneill@verizon.net, (617) 696-0831] for more info.

May 3 (Sunday) – WAREHAM RIVER (BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED) – *Second Annual Wareham Oyster Festival 5K Run/Walk*, 10:00 AM start, sponsored by the Wareham Village Association. The race will begin at the [Wareham Fire Station](#) located at 273 Main Street, and finish in the middle of Main Street. The race route (a good bit of which parallels the Wareham River) is paved, and other than a few minor hills, it's primarily flat. Click [here](#) to register for the race. Kayak rentals from the [Nemasket Kayak Center](#) to paddle the Wareham River during the [Wareham Oyster Festival](#) will also be available.

May 3 (Sunday) – PARKER RIVER WATERSHED – *Crane Pond Wildlife Management Area Hike* in West Newbury/ Groveland, 1:00 PM start, sponsored by the [Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). “Easy 4-5 mile hike along forest trails that wind around beaver ponds. Our destination will be one of largest Great

Blue Heron Rookeries in Essex County. Meet 1:00 PM. From I-95, take exit 56 west onto Scotland Road, R at 0.5 m onto Indian Hill St, bear L at 1.1 m onto Cherry Hill St, L at 1.4 m onto Middle St, L at 1.4 m onto Georgetown Rd/J.B. Little Rd) and continue about 0.7 m to 2nd gate on left side of road.” While pre-registration is not required to participate in this activity, you may nevertheless want to click [here](#) or contact trip leader Richard Lombard [(978) 394-9619 (on day of hike) or rlombard2@gmail.com] for more info.

May 3 (Sunday) – IPSWICH RIVER – *Spring Birds of the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary*, 7:30 AM – 10:30 AM in Topsfield, sponsored by (and taking place at) [Mass. Audubon’s Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “The Sanctuary’s freshwater marshes, ponds, river edges, fields, and deciduous and evergreen woods provide food and shelter for a variety of wood-warblers, vireos, and other songbirds. We’ll observe migrant and breeding birds in their colorful spring plumage on this walk through the sanctuary.” Instructor: Mike Baird, Birder-Naturalist. Fee: Adults \$12/members, \$14/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (978) 887-9264 to sign up or for more info.

May 3 (Sunday) – IPSWICH RIVER – *Ninth Annual Middleton Earth Day Festival*, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at [Creighton Pond Day Camp](#), 201 Essex St. in Middleton, sponsored by the [Middleton Stream Team](#). This free event will include food & raffles, pond water exploration, rowboat paddle for adults, owl pellet dissection, scavenger hunts, nature crafts, child games and more. Click [here](#) for more info. (Rain Date is May 17.)

May 3 (Sunday) – CHICOPEE RIVER – *River cleanup* in Wilbraham, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, sponsored by the [Chicopee/4 Rivers Watershed Council](#) (C4RWC). The cleanup begins at River Road, and then will work its way to the Red Bridge lower launch area. Write to chicopeewatershed@gmail.com to RSVP or for more info.

May 3 (Sunday) – HOUSATONIC WATERSHED – *How to Certify a Vernal Pool workshop*, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM in Pittsfield, sponsored by the [Berkshire Environmental Action Team](#) (BEAT). Workshop leader Jane Winn will have video and audio of wood frogs “chorusing”, slides of spotted and Jefferson salamanders and their egg masses, as well as video of fairy shrimp swimming. The workshop will start at Berkshire Community College, General Bartlett Room, Susan B Anthony Building, followed by a field trip to two vernal pools. If you have a camera, clip board, and writing implement, please bring them, but this is not required. Please pre-register by contacting Jane [jane@thebeatnews.org or (413) 230-7321]. While there is no fee for the workshop, donations will be gratefully accepted.

May 3 (Sunday) – RIVER MEADOW BROOK (MERRIMACK WATERSHED) – *Doors Open event at Farnum Smith’s Cabin*, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at [Great Brook Farm State Park](#) in Carlisle, sponsored by the [Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation](#). “This cabin used to house park staff, and remains in the forest as an icon of days gone by. Come and view this beautiful little treasure and imagine what life was like living here! Park at the canoe launch on North Rd. one-half mile east of the Interpretive Center. Adults and children over 6yrs are welcome, as are dogs on leash. The event takes place rain or shine. Click [here](#) for more info about this or other 2015 Preservation Month activities.

May 3 (Sunday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Work Party* at the [Deer Jump Reservation](#) in Andover, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, sponsored by the [Andover Village Improvement Society](#) (A.V.I.S.). Park on Nollet Drive off of River Road and follow the trail to the right on the Deer Jump Reservation. We will be hand pulling invasive plant species: Garlic Mustard and Narrowleaf Bittercress. Leaders: Amy Janovsky [amy-janovsky@avisandover.org] and Susan Hegarty. Click [here](#) for more info.

May 3 (Sunday) – SUDBURY RIVER (SUDBURY-ASSABET-CONCORD WATERSHED) – *Hike to the Sudbury River*, Adams and Fairhaven Woods, Walden Pond, and Pine Hill in Lincoln and Concord, 10:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). This is an ambitious, 10-mile hike (although >70° temps. may lessen the distance). Meet at the [MBTA commuter rail parking lot in south Lincoln](#). No dogs; non-AMC members \$1. While pre-registration is not required for this activity, you might want to click [here](#) or contact trip leader Jim Loughlin [(617) 923-8039] for more info.

May 4 (Monday) – SUDBURY-ASSABET-CONCORD WATERSHED – “*Spring Wildflowers at Macomber Woods*” field trip, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Framingham, sponsored by the [New England Wild Flower Society](#). [Macomber Woods](#), a “57-acre woodland oasis in Framingham, encompasses meadows, an upland forest, a babbling brook, and wooded wetlands. The property was part of the Raceland estate owned by John R. Macomber, for whom it is named. Untouched for decades, the land has been reclaimed by nature, but signs of the human touch remain: the stonework at the entrance, cattle guards on the bridges, and century-old wisteria vines and rhododendrons. The broad trails are old carriage roads that crisscrossed the estate. Among the plants you may see in bloom are Indian cucumber root, rhododendron, pink lady’s-slippers, and jack-in-the-pulpit. The walk will focus on plant identification as well as natural history. Bring lunch, water, a favorite field guide, and a hand lens if you have one.” Fee: \$37/members, \$46/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 877-7630 ext. 3303 to register or for more info.

May 5 (Tuesday) – FORT RIVER (CONNECTICUT WATERSHED) – *Birding the Fort River Refuge*, 6:30 AM start, co-sponsored by the [Hampshire Bird Club](#) and the [Friends of the Fort River Refuge](#). “Janice Jorgensen leads our weekly May walk at the Fort River Refuge. She will seek out warblers, vireos, and other neotropical migrants. Meet at the main refuge parking area (69 Moody Bridge Road, Hadley).” Click [here](#) for more info.

May 5 (Tuesday) – ALEWIFE BROOK (MYSTIC RIVER WATERSHED) – “*Memorializing the Silver Maple Forest*” Art Exhibit Opening, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM at [The Cambridge Homes](#), sponsored by the [Friends of Alewife Reservation](#) (FAR). The exhibit will be displaying the work of several local artists that captures the beauty and importance of the Alewife area’s natural habitats. Click [here](#) for more info.

May 6 (Wednesday) – HOUSATONIC WATERSHED – *Turtle Roadway Mortality Monitoring Training*, 6:00 PM start, co-sponsored by [Project Native](#) and the [Berkshire Environmental Action Team](#). While turtles have existed for millions of years, roadways are threatening the survival of local populations. David Paulson of the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) will talk about the cooperative effort between NHESP and the MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to identify areas on roadways with high levels of wildlife crossings and mortalities, and how the [Linking Landscapes](#) program enlists “citizen scientists” to help identify wildlife crossing hotspots where action might be necessary to reduce animal/wildlife collisions David will share the results from the first year of data collection for the Turtle Roadway Mortality Monitoring Program. The sessions are free, but pre-registration is encouraged. Interested volunteers can register with Dave Paulson at David.Paulson@state.ma.us or call him at (508) 389-6366. Click [here](#) for more info.

May 6 (Wednesday) – IPSWICH RIVER – *Evening Paddle for Rails*, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM in Topsfield, sponsored by Mass. Audubon’s [Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “The freshwater marsh known as Bunker Meadows can be a magical place for viewing and listening to breeding wetland birds. Usually, the only opportunity visitors have to observe Virginia rails, sora rails, or pied-billed grebes is from a distant observation tower or boardwalk. On this night, we’ll venture into the marsh by canoe for close-up views of these amazing birds. Other birds we are likely to encounter include the marsh wren, swamp sparrow, wood duck, and many more.” Fee: \$15/members, \$18/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (978) 887-9264 to sign up or for more info.

May 7 (Thursday) – SUDBURY WATERSHED – “*The Lincoln Model: A growing system of trails and conservation land*” walk, 8:45 AM – 11:30 AM in Lincoln, sponsored by [MetroFuture Walks and Talks](#). “Join us to explore some of Lincoln’s trails! After a brief indoor presentation, we will take a 2.5 mile walk and learn about land conservation methods, how the trails were developed, and how these efforts are managed and expanded. The Town of Lincoln is a standout in the development of connected trails and protected open spaces. Features of its trail network include paved sidepaths along most busy roads (perfect for children on bikes and strollers); and a trail network that connects schools, town facilities, the Lincoln MBTA station and shopping, and even Walden Pond in Concord.” Light breakfast will be served. Click [here](#) to sign up, or contact Renato Castelo [rcastelo@mapc.org or (617) 933-0706] for more info.

May 7 (Thursday) – TOWN RIVER (TAUNTON WATERSHED) – *Wild edibles walk at the Nunckatessett Greenway*, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM in Bridgewater, sponsored by the [West Bridgewater Conservation Commission](#). Join wild foods enthusiast [Russ Cohen](#) to learn about the comestible virtues of at least eighteen species of wild plants during a two-hour ramble through the [Stiles and Hart Conservation Area](#), part of the [Nunckatessett Greenway](#). Contact Kitty Doherty at (508) 894-4073 for more info.

May 8 (Friday) – KINGSTON BAY (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Bay Circuit Trail Natural History Hike*, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM at Bay Farm in Duxbury, sponsored by Mass. Audubon's North River Wildlife Sanctuary. "The [Bay Circuit Trail](#) (BCT) is a 200-mile corridor extending through 34 towns in eastern Massachusetts, linking many parks and open spaces. It creates a great circle from Plum Island to Duxbury. We will start our journey at the southernmost tip of the BCT, at historic [Bay Farm](#), where we will embark on a three to four mile hike, exploring the land, nature, and history of this beautiful, unique property along the way. In the field, one is likely to see bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, pine siskin, and other meadow-nesting birds. Egrets, herons, and roseate, common, and least tern are likely to be spotted by the shoreline. Join this casual hike to discover more about the trail, its status today, and other options for enjoying it with Teacher Naturalist, Carolyn Sones." Fee: Adults \$10/members, \$14/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (781) 837-9400 to sign up or for more info.

May 8 (Friday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *Early evening bike ride on the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail* in Westfield, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, sponsored by [The Naturalists Club](#). "Evening is a great time for a bike ride on the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail. We'll enjoy the cool evening air, see what's in bloom, listen for bird calls, and perhaps spot some turtles basking in the last of the day's sunlight. We ride in light drizzle, but not heavy rain. Meet where the Rail Trail crosses Shaker Rd (see [map](#)). Click [here](#) or contact trip leader Diane Genereux [(413) 388-2830] to sign up or for more info.

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May 9 – May 15

May 9 (Saturday) – STILL RIVER (NASHUA WATERSHED) – *Morning bird walk* in Harvard, 7:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Friends of the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge](#). "Come look for breeding populations of migratory birds, but also learn about our resident birds at the [Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge](#). Naturalists Dick and Peggy Knowlton will again be our leaders. It is not uncommon for about 38 different species of birds to be observed during our spring walks! Bring your binoculars. Birders of all levels are welcome. We'll walk at a casual pace. There might be some biting insects. Meet at the Oxbow Refuge parking lot at the end of Still River Depot Road in Harvard. Please, pre-register by calling Rona at (978) 779-2259 or via e-mail at ada.friendsoftheoxbownwr@gmail.com." Click [here](#) for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – STATEWIDE – *Massachusetts Open Space Conference*, 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM in Ashburnham, organized by [MassLIFT/Americorps](#). This free event takes place at the Overlook Middle School, 10 Oakmont Drive in Ashburnham (see [map](#)). "Join us for the third biennial, state-wide gathering for municipal Open Space Committees, volunteers and others involved in the development and implementation of community conservation plans. Nine peer-led, discussion-based workshops will cover a variety of topics including: managing invasive species, adopting and utilizing the Community Preservation Act (CPA), building and protecting recreational trails, and writing and renewing Open Space and Recreation Plans. This event is intended to be a casual opportunity for those interested in protecting open space to gain practical skills, share experiences, build partnerships and return home with an increased capacity to facilitate successful land conservation projects, be it through planning, outreach or stewardship. Please pre-register by April 27 with workshop choices and any food allergies by contacting: Maggie Owens at MassOpenSpace@gmail.com or (978) 248-2055 ext.13." Click [here](#) for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – NASHUA RIVER – *25th Annual Ducky Wucky River Race*, 4:30 PM at the [Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge](#) paddler access area at the end of Still River Depot Road, off Route 110, Harvard, sponsored by (and benefiting) the [Rotary Club of Ayer, Harvard, Shirley and Devens](#). Grand prize of dinner for two anywhere in the world, including airfare and two nights' hotel. The race is preceded by a full day of activities at the

[Apple Blossom Festival](#). Click [here](#) for more info, including [how to “buy” a duck](#), as well as more details on the race and other activities taking place that day.

May 9 (Saturday) – BLACKSTONE RIVER – *Blackstone Community Day Clean-up Event*, 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon, co-sponsored by the Town of Blackstone, the Blackstone Historical Commission and the Blackstone Canal Conservancy. The volunteer clean-up event will focus on and along the canal on Canal Street and other key points in town. Meet at the Blackstone Town Hall (aka Municipal Building), 15 St. Paul Street. Contact Mary Bulso at the Blackstone Historic Commission [(774) 573-3338 or marybulso@gmail.com] for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – SUDBURY RIVER – *Paddle to Cedar Swamp Pond*, Hopkinton and Westborough, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, sponsored by the [Sudbury Valley Trustees](#) (SVT). Enjoy this upstream paddle to where the Sudbury River begins: Cedar Swamp Pond. Twist and turn through the narrow stretches of the Sudbury, leading you to the breathtaking headwaters. Participants must provide their own boat and proper paddling equipment. Smaller boats are recommended. This program is for experienced paddlers only. Trip co-leaders are Simon Vos and Jim Lagerbom. The paddle begins/ends at the Fruit Street bridge in Hopkinton (see [map](#)). Fee: free for SVT Members, \$10/person for others. Call (978) 443-5588 or click [here](#) for more info and [here](#) to register.

May 9 (Saturday) – FORT POND BROOK (ASSABET WATERSHED) – *Fifth Annual Spring Walk of the Caouette-Simeone Farmlands*, 10:30 AM start, sponsored by the [Acton Conservation Trust](#). “We will walk on the periphery of the fields and on the berms that separate them; enjoy the view from the northwest corner – the highest point on the property; cross over the footbridge to take in the sights of Fort Pond Brook and Mill Pond and keep our eyes open for wildlife, including ducks, hawks, deer, beavers and great blue heron.” Click [here](#) or contact Susan Mitchell-Hardt [(978) 369-9264, info@actonconservationtrust.org] for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Work Party* at the [Deer Jump Reservation](#) in Andover, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by the [Andover Village Improvement Society](#) (A.V.I.S.). Park on Inwood Lane off River Road and follow the trail to the left on the Deer Jump Reservation. We will be hand pulling invasive plant species: Garlic Mustard and Narrowleaf Bittercress. Leaders: Carl Hayssen [chayssen@usa.net, (978) 682-8899] and Susan Hegarty. Click [here](#) for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – IPSWICH RIVER – *Birding Paddle Trip through Wenham Swamp*, start time TBD, sponsored by the [Essex County Ornithological Society](#) (ECOC). “Participate in the 108th ECOC birding trip down the Ipswich River! Arguably the oldest uninterrupted bird-count in the world, this event is timed to get the best views of birds before full leaf-out, but late enough in the season to get better weather for paddling.” Paddle the Wenham Swamp section of the Ipswich River while birding with the experts at the height of warbler migration! Put in is at Route 97/High Street in Topsfield, and take out is at Willowdale Meadows, on Topsfield Road near Bradley Palmer State Park. Click [here](#) or contact event coordinator Robert Buchsbaum [(978) 927-1122 rbuchsbaum@massaudubon.org] for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – MILL BROOK (MYSTIC WATERSHED) – *Meadowbrook Park Cleanup*, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon in Arlington, co-sponsored by the Join the [Arlington Conservation Commission](#) and the Arlington Land Stewards. “Meet on Brooks Ave in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (enter on Sachem Ave from Mystic St.). Bring an old garbage can (for hauling), a hat, boots, gloves, long pants and expect to get muddy. Come join us this year and see what has washed into the wetland. The event takes place rain or shine.” Contact Cori Beckwith [(781) 316-3012 or CBeckwith@town.arlington.ma.us] for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – *History walk along the Charles*, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM in Waltham, sponsored by the Waltham Land Trust, and taking place during the [Watch City Steampunk Festival](#). “Join noted Waltham historian and WLT Board Director Marie Daly in a casual, informative stroll along the Charles River, where we’ll learn about how the Mill, designed by Francis Cabot Lowell in 1813, impacted the river and the Waltham community. East of Elm Street, we’ll walk on paved, level paths and look for wildlife, turning around and heading back to the Festival on the Common. Costumed participants encouraged! Meet by Moody Street Dam in Landry Park.” Click [here](#) or call (781) 893-3355 for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – “Walkin’ the Watershed” training, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, sponsored by the [Westfield Wild and Scenic River Committee](#). “See how easy and fun it is to monitor a section of the river. Skills needed: a love of water and the ability to walk along a river bank.” Contact Meredyth Babcock at (413) 623-2070 or volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – FORT RIVER (CONNECTICUT WATERSHED) – Fort River Birding and Nature Trail walk, 9:30 AM start in Hadley, sponsored by [The Naturalists Club](#). “This walk will take us along the [Fort River Division](#), the newest addition to the [Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge](#). The Fort River Birding and Nature Trail traverses 260 acres of grassland, wetlands, hardwoods and floodplain forests as it winds its way in a ½-mile loop along the Fort River in Hadley. The universally-accessible trail features graded, edged pathways, elevated walkways, and several observation platforms. The federally-listed dwarf wedgemussel makes its home here, as well as do some 125 species of birds! Wear comfortable shoes and bring your binoculars and something to drink. Click [here](#) or contact trip leader Bill Fontaine [(413) 533-2153] to sign up or for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – WARE RIVER (CHICOPEE WATERSHED) – Tree Identification Walk along the Gilbertville Fitness Trail, 2:00 PM start, sponsored by the [East Quabbin Land Trust](#). “Come stroll along the Ware River and learn what trees (and shrubs) are growing in the neighborhood with Kate Marquis, our state service forester. We will share tips on plant identification so that you can identify species in other places too. Dress for the weather. The walk start location is along Main St. in Gilbertville (S. Hardwick). Click [here](#) or contact Shelby with questions at servicelearning@EQLT.org or (413) 477-8229”.

May 9 (Saturday) – MILL RIVER (CONNECTICUT WATERSHED) – River walk, Skinnerville to Haydenville, sponsored by the [Mill River Greenway Initiative](#). Ralmon Black will lead this walk. Click [here](#) or write to info@millrivergreenway.org to sign up or for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – NEMASKET RIVER (TAUNTON WATERSHED) – Annual Canoe Race, 11:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Middleborough Parks Department](#). The race begins at [Old Bridge Street](#) in Lakeville and follows a 4.5-mile course downstream (north) to the finish line at [Oliver Mill Park](#) in Middleborough. Registration is \$20/boat in advance and \$30/boat the day of the race. (Rain date is Saturday, May 16.) Click [here](#) or contact Mr. Fran Cass at (508) 946-2440 or fcass@middleborough.com for more info.

May 9 (Saturday) – BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED – Birding in the Bioreserve, 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM, sponsored by the [Paskamansett Bird Club](#). Large, unfragmented areas like the [Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve](#) support an array of warblers and other interior forest birds such the wood thrush, ovenbird, and scarlet tanager. Many of these unique birds pass through the area for only a few weeks each spring on their way north. Join Lynn Abbey of the Paskamansett Bird Club to search for warblers and other spring migrants in the Watuppa Reservoir area. Bring binoculars. Call Lynn at (508) 672-8866 for the starting location.

May 9 (Saturday) – SLOCUMS RIVER (BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED) – Spring Bird Walk, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM in South Dartmouth, sponsored by the [Lloyd Center for Environmental Studies](#). “Rise early to enjoy the Lloyd Center property and its bird life while migrants such as warblers are still on the move, and resident breeding birds are entering nesting mode. We will take advantage of the variety of habitats that include forest edges, kettle ponds, vernal pools, salt marsh, and estuary that the Lloyd Center property offers. Participants should bring binoculars if they have them.” Inclement weather date: Sunday, May 10. Suitable for adults and children 10 years and older. Click [here](#) to register or for more info, or contact Jamie Bogart at (508) 990-0505 ext. 23, or jbogart@lloydcenter.org.

May 9-10 and 16-17 (Saturday-Sunday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – Fiftieth Annual Shad fishing Derby, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM in Holyoke, sponsored by the [Holyoke Gas and Electric Department](#) (HG&E). The annual HG&E Shad Derby is one of the region’s largest fishing events. Held this year on two weekends in May, the Derby offers both adult and youth fisherfolk the opportunity to win prizes as they enjoy the recreational benefits of the Connecticut River. Click [here](#) or call (413) 536-9333 for more info.

May 9-17 (Saturday – Sunday) – STATEWIDE – *Bay State Bike Week*, presented by the [Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition](#) (MassBike) in cooperation with the [Massachusetts Department of Transportation](#) (MassDOT). “*Bay State Bike Week* is an annual celebration of human-powered, two-wheeled transportation. It is fitting that Massachusetts would be the only state in the nation with a truly statewide bike week, given our long history of biking.” Click [here](#) for more info on events in your area or that otherwise interest you.

May 10 (Sunday) – IPSWICH RIVER- *Mother’s Day Bird Walk*, in Reading, 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM, sponsored by the [Ipswich River Watershed Association](#). “Spring is finally here, and it’s a wonderful time to get out and explore open spaces in Reading. Local birder Dave Williams will be conducting this Sunday morning bird walk at the Reading Town Forest on Strout Avenue (see [map](#)). The walk is free and open to all - young and old, regardless of bird watching experience. If you have any questions, contact Dave Williams at 781-944-8118 or at: dave.williams6@gmail.com”.

May 10 (Sunday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – “*Mother’s Day with Wildflowers*” guided walk at [Bartholomew’s Cobble](#) in Sheffield, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by [The Trustees of Reservations](#). “Spend the day with Mom and Mother Earth! Sheffield is a global hotspot for rare species, and Bartholomew’s Cobble puts on one of the best shows of spring ephemerals from mid-April to mid-May. Come greet the rich variety of wildflowers, and leave with an understanding of how to help identify and protect these gems of our native flora not just in conservation lands, but in your own yard and the open spaces of your community. A Trustees naturalist will reveal what makes this particular environment so well-suited to rare and diverse plants and explain what the Cobble is doing to protect the natural resilience of this landscape.” Please pre-register. Fee: Adult/Child \$5; Family \$15 (members), Adult/Child \$8; Family \$20 (non-members). Click [here](#) or call (413) 229-8600 to sign up or for more info.

May 10 (Sunday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *Birding excursion in Robinson State Park*, 7:30 AM – 12:00 noon in Agawam, sponsored by the [Allen Bird Club](#). Look for nesting and migrant songbirds. Meet on Colemore St., opposite the North St. entrance to the Park (see [map](#)). Click [here](#) or contact John Hutchison [(413) 562-3976] for more info.

May 10 (Sunday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Hike at Maudslay State Park* in Newburyport, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, sponsored by the [Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). “A moderate-paced hike. Bring water, lunch and proper shoes. I-95 exit 57 to Rte. 113W for 0.7 mi., R on Hoyts (Gypsy Ln.) to end lot on R. Parking fee.” While pre-registration is not required for this activity, you may nevertheless want to click [here](#) or contact trip leader Sara Epstein [(781) 620-1014] if you have any questions.

May 10 (Sunday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Nahanton Park Mother’s Day Bird Walk Trip*, 8:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Newton Conservators](#). [Nahanton Park](#) offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands, edge habitat and meadows along the Charles River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton for both migratory and resident songbirds. Likely finds include brightly colored warblers, vireos, and orioles. Also expect bluebirds, scarlet tanagers, swallows and brown thrashers. Enter the park at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. Walk will be cancelled in steady rain. Click [here](#) or contact co-leaders Alison Leary (617) 821-5619 or Haynes Miller (617) 413-2419 for more info. (Co-sponsored with [Friends of Nahanton Park](#).)

May 10 (Sunday) – BLACKSTONE RIVER and CANAL – *Canal and Towpath Walk*, 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM at the [Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, River Bend Farm](#), 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge, sponsored by the [Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation](#). “The Blackstone Canal was used from 1828-1848 to transport agricultural products and manufactured goods between emerging industrial centers in Rhode Island and Massachusetts and later powered mill industries. Meet at the Visitors Center for a two-mile-long walk from farm to the factory exploring times of war and peace during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Learn about the nearby Nipmuc villages and early settlements of the Blackstone Valley; River Bend Farm before the canal era; the historic Blackstone Canal; the transformation of the agricultural landscape and early industrial improvements

leading up to changes made to meet the war efforts of the 1860's. The walk is open to people of all ages; rain cancels." Click [here](#) or call (508) 278-7604 for more info about this or other 2015 Preservation Month activities.

May 10 (Sunday) – TAUNTON RIVER – *Doors Open: The Mystery of Dighton Rock*, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at [Dighton Rock State Park](#), Bay View Avenue in Berkley, sponsored by the [Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation](#). "Dighton Rock is a large rock that once sat in the middle of the Taunton River. But, unlike other rocks, it is covered in mysterious carvings. If you have never seen Dighton Rock and its inscriptions, come visit the Dighton Rock Museum where you can view Dighton Rock and learn about the four theories of who carved the inscriptions on the rock. Docents from the Friends of Dighton Rock Museum will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. The event takes place rain or shine. Adults and children over 6 are welcome, as are dogs on leash. Click [here](#) or call the Freetown Fall River State Forest at (508) 644-5522 for more info about this or other 2015 Preservation Month activities, and click [here](#) for a list of other events taking place at Dighton Rock.

May 11 (Monday) – RATTLESNAKE BROOK (TAUNTON WATERSHED) – *Birding Rattlesnake Brook*, 7:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Paskamansett Bird Club](#). "A fantastic woodland with scenic views. This property is one of the few places in our area to view Worm-eating Warblers. Depending on weather conditions this walk can be strenuous. Sure footing is required. Call trip leader Bill Gil [(508) 636-6535] for meeting place."

May 12 (Tuesday) – NASHUA RIVER – "*Water Chestnuts in the Nashua River*" presentation in Pepperell, 7:00 PM start, sponsored by the [Nashua River Watershed Association](#) (NRWA). "What are invasive water chestnuts, and why are they a problem in the Nashua River? If you walk or bike on the Nashua River Rail Trail, perhaps you've seen the dense green plant mat floating on the water. Are these water chestnuts edible? What impact do they have on the river ecosystem? These questions and more will be answered in this free public presentation, which will take place at the Lawrence Library, 15 Main Street (Rt.113) in Pepperell, MA. Martha Morgan, NRWA Water Programs Director, and Kathryn Nelson, NRWA Water Monitoring Coordinator, will discuss the plant's life cycle, impact on wildlife and river recreation, and efforts to eradicate it in the Nashua River. Learn what you can do to prevent its spread and reduce its impact at existing infestation areas, either in the river or in our local ponds." For more info or to pre-register, please contact Martha Morgan [MarthaM@NashuaRiverWatershed.org or (978) 448-0299].

May 12 (Tuesday) – NASHUA WATERSHED – *Free rain garden workshop* at the [Fitchburg Public Library](#), 6:30 PM start, co-sponsored by the Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc. and the [Massachusetts Watershed Coalition](#). "Spring is the ideal time to create a rain garden. Please join us for a workshop about how to beautify your yard and help keep streams healthy. Ed Himlan of the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition will present a slideshow on the design and benefits of rain gardens. Rain gardens attract birds and butterflies, while protecting local streams and ponds. These gardens are planted with flowers, shrubs and grasses that are easy to maintain and thrive without fertilizers & pesticides. The slideshow will explain where to place a rain garden, how to select plants and how to keep the garden flourishing as a beautiful accent for your home or business. This workshop is part of the Clearwater Revival Project. Participants will receive a free Pocket Guide with helpful tips about rain gardens and other runoff remedies. The program is free and no reservations are required." Click [here](#) or contact Jenna David at (978) 343-6259 ext. 228 for more info.

May 12 (Tuesday) – CHELSEA CREEK (MYSTIC WATERSHED) – *Narrated Harbor Tour of Chelsea Creek and the Lower Mystic River*, 11:00 AM start, sponsored by [The Boston Harbor Association](#). This free tour departs from Rowes Wharf in downtown Boston. "For decades, Chelsea Creek has been and continues to serve as the region's energy corridor, with tankers bringing home heating oil, transportation fuel, and aircraft fuel to energy storage facilities along the creek. Ships bring road salt used by more than 200 municipalities and MassDOT to Eastern Salt's Chelsea facility. On the Mystic River, passengers will be able to view Distrigas' LNG terminal, Schnitzer Steel's metals recycling facility, Massport's Boston Autoport, and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's Wind Technology Testing Center. In addition to DCR's popular Mary O'Malley Park along the Mystic River, passengers will also be able to view two open spaces along Chelsea Creek: Condor Street Urban Wild in East Boston, a former brownfield site transformed to an urban wild thanks to the efforts of the Chelsea Creek Action

Group, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the City of Boston's Parks and Recreation Department. The restored site features salt marshes, meadow grasses, and other coastal habitat elements as well as walking paths, sculptures, and a viewing platform overlooking Chelsea Creek. Click [here](#) or write to mail@tbha.org to sign up or for more info.

May 12-13 (Tuesday-Wednesday) – MASSACHUSETTS and CAPE COD BAYS – *Coastal Blue Carbon: New Guidance & Tools for Coastal Managers and Policymakers*: Results of the [Bringing Wetlands to Market Project](#) and Implications for Wetlands Conservation and Restoration in New England and Beyond, a [two-day conference](#) taking place at [The Conference Center at Massasoit Community College](#) in Brockton. “[Bringing Wetlands to Market](#) is a four year project at the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve that examined the relationship between salt marshes, climate, and nitrogen pollution. The Project used cutting-edge science to quantify greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration in coastal wetlands and predict greenhouse gas fluxes across a range of environmental settings. The project also elevated understanding about the importance of blue carbon and developed new tools and resources to enable coastal managers and policymakers to leverage blue carbon to achieve broader wetlands management, restoration, and conservation goals.” Click [here](#) to register and [here](#) for more info.

May 13-June 14 (Wednesdays-Sundays) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Turners Falls Fishway open for public viewing*, sponsored by the [Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center](#). The [Turners Falls Fishway](#) is located on First Street, off Avenue A, in Turners Falls, MA. The facility is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, and also on Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day holiday. Spring on the Connecticut River offers an unrivaled opportunity to witness the migration of shad, sea lamprey and other anadromous fish. These fish migrate from the ocean and head upriver to spawn in the rivers of their birth. A visit to the Turners Falls Fishway provides an opportunity to learn about these amazing journeys. Admission is free; click [here](#), [here](#) or call (toll-free) (800) 859-2960, or (413) 659-3714 for more info.

May 14 (Thursday) – MASHPEE RIVER – (CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED) – *Paddle the Mashpee River* in Mashpee, 10:00 AM (sharp) start, sponsored by the [Kayak and Walk Cape Cod Meetup Group](#). “Paddle through the Mashpee Woodlands Conservation Area, perhaps seeing nesting marsh wrens and red winged blackbirds along the shoreline and always osprey overhead. It is a beautiful paddle, end to end.” Meet at the Mashpee Town Landing (see [map](#)). Click [here](#) for basic info on this group and its paddling trips, and [here](#) to sign up or for more specific info on this event.

May 14 (Thursday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Housatonic Flats Bird Walk*, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM in Great Barrington, co-sponsored by the [Berkshire Natural Resources Council](#) and the Hoffman Bird Club. “This walk will help take you from feeder birds (blue jays, chickadees) to the birds of field and forest. Can’t tell a robin from a crow? No shame – we’ll show you how we do it. After just one walk you’ll amaze your friends with cheap birding tricks! Join BNRC and the Hoffmann Bird Club at the Housatonic Flats Reserve for a stroll at this promising birding site. Terrain is flat, level ground along the Housatonic River. Wear long pants and shoes; bring water and a snack. Housatonic Flats is on Route 7 in Great Barrington, just north of the WSBS radio tower, right across the street from Chelsea and Company Antiques (434 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington).” Click [here](#) or contact Doug at dbruce@bnrc.net or (413) 499-0596 for more info.

May 14 (Thursday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *The Evolution of the Turners Falls Dam*, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM in Greenfield, sponsored by [Greenfield Community College’s Pioneer Valley Institute](#). “Ed Gregory presents a pictorial excursion of the longest dam on the Connecticut River. We’ll board the ‘Way-Back Machine’ and set the control panel for 1866 to view the crib dam. Then we’ll lever forward to take in two major reconstruction projects from 1910 to 1915 and 1969 to 1971. The dam played an integral part in the development of Alvah Crocker's planned industrial city that he hoped would emulate Lawrence or Holyoke, Massachusetts, a city which, in essence, developed into Turners Falls. The lecture takes place in the Stinchfield Lecture Hall, located on the Main Campus, Main Building, North Wing. Click [here](#) or contact Cynthia Herbert at pvi@gcc.mass.edu for more info.

May 15 (Friday) – SUDBURY-ASSABET-CONCORD WATERSHED – “Wetland and Other Shrubs” workshop with Roland “Boot” Boutwell, Naturalist, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Acton, sponsored by the [Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions](#). “Grassy Pond Conservation Land is a 96-acre sanctuary that includes Grassy Pond, associated wetlands, a small meadow, two small streams and a forest of oak, hickory, white pine and hemlock. Grassy Pond is a kettlehole pond formed during the retreat of the glaciers. It exhibits bog characteristics (very wet/highly acidic) around its perimeter, with leatherleaf, highbush blueberry, red maple and tamarack moving in and shrinking the pond. There are two boardwalks to keep us high and dry - one going out into the pond and a second one running through the pond-shore bog. We’ll take a look at 16-20 shrubs as well as a couple of trees and a few non-woody plants that are often found in wetlands. We’ll also discuss some fun and interesting natural history about some of the plants we see. Please bring lunch, a favorite field guide and a hand lens if you have one.” Click [here](#) to register or for more info.

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May 16 – May 22

May 16 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – West Branch River Cleanup, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM in Pittsfield, co-sponsored by the [Berkshire Environmental Action Team](#) (BEAT), the [Housatonic Valley Association](#) (HVA), the City of Pittsfield and American Rivers. “Volunteer to help the river! Meet at [Wahconah Park, Pittsfield](#). Trash bags, work gloves, snacks, and lunch are provided. Support provided by Alnasco, Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Blue Q, The Annie Selke Companies, Guido’s, Harry’s Supermarket, Panera Bread and Wahconah Package and Variety Store.” To register, call HVA at [413-394-9796](#) or email adixon@hvatoday.org.

May 16 (Saturday) – MILL RIVER (CONNECTICUT WATERSHED) – Natural History by Canoe, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon in Easthampton, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon’s Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Come experience the floodplain forests along the Mill River best experienced in spring by canoe. These forests are one of Arcadia’s most fruitful and reproductive natural communities. This program involves a leisurely paddle (weather-dependent) on the Mill River, focusing as opportunity strikes on birds, mammals, floodplain ecology, and other elements of this aquatic corner of the sanctuary. Trip leaders are Tom Lautzenheiser, Regional Scientist/Central and Western Mass., and Jonah Keane, Director, Connecticut River Valley Sanctuaries. Canoes, paddles and PFDs are provided. Fee: Adults \$15/members, \$20/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (413) 584-3009 to sign up or for more info.

May 16 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – River’s Song, 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM, at the [Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls](#), and other venues in Turners Falls and on the Connecticut River. “*River’s Song* was conceived as an innovative, year-long study combining the arts and the environment to give voice to a diverse constituency along the Connecticut River basin and highlighting its ecology. River’s Song is a collaboration among UMASS Asian Arts & Culture Department, regional arts organizations, environmental and historic preservation groups, coordinated by [Turners Falls RiverCulture](#). The event on 5/16 includes a “[trash to treasure](#)” art exhibition, talks, music and dance, all around the theme of the Connecticut River, and commemoration and other ceremonies by the [Nolumbeka Project](#) to honor the Native American significance of the site. Click [here](#) for more info, [here](#) to see examples of “water dances” to be performed at the event, and [here](#) to read an article about this event posted to the *Valley Advocate*.

May 16 (Saturday) – QUINEBAUG RIVER – Flatwater paddle or hike in West Dudley and Southbridge, 9:00 AM start, sponsored by the [French River Connection](#). This river paddle will begin and end at the put-in at the southern end of West Dudley (aka Paper Mill) Pond, an impoundment on the Quinebaug River above the West Dudley Dam. [More info about this access point is on p.12 of the [Quinebaug River Water Trail Paddle Guide](#).] The impounded river behind the dam provides a pleasant stretch of river, and is suitable for novice paddlers. This event is “BYOB” (bring your own boat) for those wishing to paddle; for those not wishing to paddle, there is an option to hike the rail trail that runs along the river. Contact trip leader Ken Butkiewicz (508) 943-6461 for more info.

May 16 (Saturday) – ASSABET RIVER – *Painting ‘en plein air’ workshop*, 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon in Hudson, sponsored by the [Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area](#) (Rain Date: May 17.) “Celebrate the Assabet River by meeting at Wood Park (65 Park Street, Hudson) and participating in an *en plein air* workshop where attendees will be guided in painting a scene of the river, the Taylor Memorial Bridge, or the park. Information on the river will be available. Children will be led by volunteers and will use watercolors to create a piece of art while in attendance. Refreshments will be available to participants. Pre-registration is requested to ensure we have supplies for all workshop participants. Participants MUST bring a folding chair. Click [here](#) or call (978) 568-9642 to sign up or for more info and [here](#) to learn about more events that are part of [Freedom’s Way Hidden Treasures Weekend](#).

May 16 (Saturday) – BUZZARD BAY WATERSHED – *Basic Wetland Delineation: Soils* workshop with John Rockwell, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM in Marion, sponsored by the [Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions](#) in cooperation with Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program. “Participants will become more familiar with the state methodology of wetland delineation through practice sessions, case studies and a field session; they’ll be introduced to hydric soil identification and be shown how to use the DEP manual ‘Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands under the MA Wetlands Protection Act’.” Click [here](#) to register or for more info.

May 16 (Saturday) – QUIVETT CREEK (CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED) – *Paddle Quivett Creek* from Paines Beach, Brewster, 10:00 AM (sharp) start, sponsored by the [Kayak and Walk Cape Cod Meetup Group](#). “We’ll paddle from Paines Creek Beach and hug the shore going west to the mouth of Quivett Creek. As we make our way up this wonderful creek, we’ll be surrounded by extensive marsh. Unlike Scorton Creek and Chase Garden, where the reeds and grasses are too tall to see over, the vegetation along Quivett Creek allows distant views at high tide”. Click [here](#) for basic info on this group and its paddling trips, and [here](#) to sign up or for more specific info on this event.

May 16 (Saturday) – NORTH RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *“Learn to Kayak” course*, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM at the Marshfield Canoe Launch, sponsored by the [North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#) (NSRWA). “This Intro to Kayak 2.5-hour course on the North River emphasizes safety, with the goal to provide paddlers with the basic knowledge needed to become a successful paddler. Cost: \$55/member, \$80/non-member (includes NSRWA membership). All kayaking equipment is provided. The event is suitable for adults and children 8 years of age or older.” Click [here](#) or call (781) 659-8168 to sign up or for more info.

May 16 (Saturday) – ESSEX RIVER (NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Essex River Race*, sponsored by the [Cape Ann Rowing Club](#). Registration begins at 8:00 AM; the first race heat sets off at 10:00 AM. The Essex River Race is a 5.5-mile, open water event starting at the Essex River Bridge at Route 133 in Essex, out behind the barrier beaches of Ipswich and back. Participants row or paddle small boats through one of the most scenic tidal areas in New England. Occasionally the water can be very rough, with strong winds and currents. Click [here](#) for an overview of the race and [here](#) to participate, or contact [Suzanne Sweeney](#) for more info.

May 16-22 (Saturday – Friday) – STATEWIDE – *National Safe Boating Week*, sponsored by the [North American Safe Boating Campaign](#). Click [here](#) to order free educational and other items promoting safe boating and the wearing of life jackets (PFDs), and click [here](#) to add your safe boating-themed event to their Calendar. Write to campaign@safeboatingcampaign.com for more info.

May 17 (Sunday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Hike at Maudslay State Park* in Newburyport, 1:30 PM start, sponsored by the [Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). “Easy 4 miles on mostly flat terrain. Meet at 1:30PM at parking lot (see [map](#)). Small fee or DCR parking pass required. Rain cancels, no dogs please. Hope to see flowers in bloom.” While pre-registration is not required for this activity, you may nevertheless want to click [here](#) or contact trip leaders Ted Harney [(978) 764-1272] or Sheila Pendleton [4hikes@gmail.com] if you have any questions.

May 17 (Sunday) – MYSTIC RIVER – 19th Annual Mystic River Herring Run & Paddle, sponsored by (and benefiting) the [Mystic River Watershed Association](#). Participate in a 5K Race or Walk or a 3-, 9- or 12-mile paddle, or bike ride. Meet at the [Boys and Girls Clubs, Blessing of the Bay Boathouse, 32 Shore Drive in Somerville](#) (park at the Somerville District Court at 175 Fellsway). 5K Race & Walk registration opens at 8:00AM; 5K Run /walk starts at 9:00AM; Paddling Races (see [map](#)) start at 11:00AM, and the [Bike to the Sea](#) bicycle tour departs at 11:15 AM. Click [here](#) for more info, and click [here](#) or contact Mark at (617) 965-5110 to reserve a boat for the race.

May 17 (Sunday) – CEDAR SWAMP (NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – Spring Migration Birding excursion in Cedar Swamp in Manchester, 7:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Manchester-Essex Conservation Trust](#). “Robert Buchsbaum of Mass. Audubon will help birders identify migratory and resident songbirds in the Cedar Swamp area. Meet at the [Cedar Swamp Gateway kiosk](#) off upper School Street, Manchester. Rain or Shine. Bring binoculars, but please leave your dog at home.” Click [here](#) or write to conserve@mect.org for more info.

May 17 (Sunday) – NORTH RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – North River Kayak and picnic, 10:30 AM start, sponsored by the [South Shore Hike, Bike & Social Club Meetup group](#). “We will ride the tide up river to Couch cemetery/Strawberry Island beach. High tide is 11:34 AM at the mouth of the river so it will be still heading in until after noon. Bring a lunch and swim suit. We want to BE In the water at 11:00AM. This is an easy 45 minute paddle each way. We will spend 1-2 hours on the beach. If you need a rental, try Buckles and Boards on rte 139 in Marshfield, an easy 3 mile ride from the put-in. Parking is free at the river, no sticker required. Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info. (A similar trip is scheduled for 6/14.)

May 17 (Sunday) – NORTH RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – Paddle the North River, 10:30 AM start, sponsored by the [Wampanoag Paddlers](#). Meet at Union St. bridge parking lot, on the Marshfield side of the river at 10:30 AM, then, at 11:00 AM, ride the outgoing tide downstream to Blueberry Island/ Couch’s Beach for lunch, swimming, 1-2 hours. Then ride the incoming tide back to cars at the put-in. Click [here](#) or contact Rich Boretti at (508) 546-9758 for more info. (Similar trips take place on June 14 and June 27.)

May 17 (Sunday) – NORTH RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – Clamming on the North River, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM, sponsored by the [North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#) (NSRWA). “Come clamming with us before the [shellfish beds close for the season](#) on May 31. If this date doesn’t work for you, we will be going again on [Saturday, May 23rd at 8 AM](#). You must have your own equipment, which should include a clam rake, bucket, water shoes or boots and [Scituate shellfishing permit](#) (\$20/residents, \$50/non-residents). You will be transported out to the flats by boat. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10 for NSRWA members, \$15 for non-members, and includes the boat trip to the sand flats. We will meet at [Roht Marine](#).” Click [here](#) to register or for more info.

May 17 (Sunday) – BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED – Copicut Woods Bioreserve Hike in Fall River, sponsored by the [Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). “We’ll take a leisurely 3.5-mile loop hike through Copicut Woods Biosphere Reserve in Fall River, with an optional short side trip to an ongoing White Cedar restoration project. Along the hike we will encounter vernal pools and an abandoned farm settlement. A pre-hike breakfast will take place for those who would like to join. Pre-registration is required; click [here](#) or contact trip leaders John Pereira [(774) 473-8145 (best time to call: 6:00 to 8:30 PM) or Johnpereira33@gmail.com] or Walt Granda [wlgranda@aol.com] to sign up or for more info.

May 17 (Sunday) – STILL RIVER (NASHUA WATERSHED) – Morning bird walk in Harvard, 7:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Friends of the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge](#). “Come look for breeding populations of migratory birds, but also learn about our resident birds at the [Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge](#). Naturalists Dick and Peggy Knowlton will again be our leaders. It is not uncommon for about 38 different species of birds to be observed during our spring walks! Bring your binoculars. Birders of all levels are welcome. We’ll walk at a casual pace. There might be some biting insects. Meet at the Oxbow Refuge parking lot at the end of Still River Depot Road in Harvard. Please pre-register by calling Rona at (978) 779-2259 or writing to ada.friendsoftheoxbownwr@gmail.com.” Click [here](#) for more info.

May 17 (Sunday) – MILL RIVER (CONNECTICUT WATERSHED) – *Early Morning Canoe Trip*, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM in Easthampton, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary](#). Come enjoy a quite morning paddle along the Mill River. This is a good time of day to be watching for birds and other wildlife such as great blue heron, beaver and songbirds. Learn how to identify wetland plants, shrubs and ferns such as pickerel weed, buttonbush, and royal fern along the way. Instructor: Aimee Gelinas - Naturalist-Educator Tamarack Hollow. Canoes, paddles and PFDs are provided. Fee: Adults \$15/members, \$20/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (413) 584-3009 to sign up or for more info.

May 18 (Monday) – ESSEX RIVER (NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *"Introduction to the Birds" at Cogswell's Grant*, 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM in Essex, co-sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center](#) and [Historic New England](#). "The beautiful 165-acre [Cogswell's Grant in Essex](#) offers a variety of habitats that attract many species of birds. During mid-May, many breeding birds such as bobolinks and Baltimore orioles have already returned to our fields and forests to nest, while many others are still migrating through our area en route to their more northerly breeding grounds. Join Bill Gette for a leisurely morning walk through the grant. During the walk, we will discuss the many aids to field identification, identify birds by their vocalizations, and discuss breeding behavior. The grasslands, salt marshes, and woodlands of Cogswell's Grant are a treasure trove for birders. Coffee and refreshments will be served, and the historic house will be open to participants for a brief tour. Meet at [Cogswell's Grant](#), on Spring Street in Essex. Please dress for the weather and bring binoculars. The member price applies to members of Mass Audubon and Historic New England." Fee: Adults \$12/members, \$16/non-members. Pre-registration is required; click [here](#), [here](#) or call (978) 462-9998 to sign up or for more info.

May 20 (Wednesday) – JOE WRIGHT BROOK (CONNECTICUT WATERSHED) – *Wildflowers at Graves Farm*, 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon in Williamsburg, MA, sponsored by Mass. Audubon's Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. "Walk the loop trail at [Mass. Audubon's Graves Farm](#) property in search of wildflowers. In the sanctuary's rich forest and wetlands, we will look for plants such as wild strawberry, fringed milkwort, pussytoes, and yellow blue bead lily. We'll also look for sweet flag, a non-fetid relative of skunk cabbage, and jack-in-the-pulpit." Instructors are botanists Connie Parks and Janet Bissell. Fee: Adults \$5/members, \$8/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (413) 584-3009 to sign up or for more info.

May 20 (Wednesday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *Workday at the Keystone Arch Bridges* over the Westfield River, sponsored by [Westfield River Wild & Scenic](#). "Haul and cut brush to help preserve the historic Keystone Arch Bridges. Our wonderful climbers will be on hand to remove the vegetation from the bridges. We need you to help move it into the woods." Call (413) 623-2070 or write to volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org to sign up or for more info.

May 20 (Wednesday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *"Berkshire Wildlife Linkage: Using wildlife tracking and cameras to learn where animals are moving and ways we can help"*, taking place from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM at the Springfield Science Museum, Tolland Auditorium, and sponsored by [The Naturalists Club](#). "The Berkshire Wildlife Linkage is a critical wildlife corridor between the Green Mountains in Vermont and the Hudson Highlands in New York. During the winter of 2013-14, The Nature Conservancy, the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), the Westfield Wild and Scenic River Advisory Committee, and a crew of enthusiastic volunteer wildlife trackers conducted a mammal-tracking study in the southern Berkshires and the Westfield River watershed. Join us for a presentation by Laura Marx of The Nature Conservancy, who will share maps, photos, and videos from this study and discuss why animals need to be able to move freely throughout New England. The presentation will end with a question and answer session about what is being done, and what we can do, as landowners and community members, to ensure that this corridor continues to allow both wildlife and people to safely get to where they need to go." Click [here](#) or contact Laura [lmarx@tnc.org or (413) 584-2596] for more info.

May 20 (Wednesday) – IPSWICH RIVER – *New Moon Paddle on the Ipswich River*, 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM in Topsfield, sponsored by (and taking place at) [Mass. Audubon's Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary](#). "Join us for a magical evening as we canoe the Ipswich River with the first phase of the new moon barely visible in the evening sky. We'll watch for ducks, herons, and other birds flying by, or even a lone bat flitting above the water catching

insects. We will listen and look for beavers and muskrats that may be active in the river. After a stop on one of the river's islands to enjoy a campfire and snacks, we'll call for owls and experience the sounds of the nocturnal river habitat." Trip leaders are Sanctuary Director Carol Decker and teacher-naturalist Scott Santino. Basic canoeing instruction will be provided, along with all equipment. Fee: Adults \$28/members, \$32/non-members. Pre-registration is required; click [here](#) or call (978) 887-9264 to sign up or for more info.

May 21 (Thursday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *A walk at Robinson State Park* in Agawam, 9:30 AM start, sponsored by [The Naturalists Club](#). "Spend a mid-May morning with this outgoing group of folks who've kept their eyes on local nature spots over the years. Why not follow along with them, down foot-friendly trails within the 800 acres of this [riverfront park](#), a true retreat from its urban surroundings. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Bad weather cancels." Click [here](#) or contact trip leader Collette Porter [(413) 786-1805] for more info.

May 21 (Thursday) – SWIFT RIVER (CHICOPEE WATERSHED) – *Evening Canoe Exploration*, 5:30 – 7:30 PM at [The Trustees of Reservations](#) (TTOR)'s [Swift River Reservation](#) in Petersham. "Spend your evening exploring the serenity of Connors Pond with Trustees Staff. This is a great event for kids interested in seeing nature from a new perspective. This event has a maximum capacity of 12 boats. Please RSVP to reserve your spot. This is a weather-dependent event, with a rain date set for May 28." Fee: Free for TTOR members; \$10 for others; \$10 for boat rental. Click [here](#) or call (978) 840-4446 ext. 1913 to sign up or for more info.

May 21 (Thursday) – STILL RIVER (NASHUA WATERSHED) – *Birding Bolton Flats and Pine Hill Wildlife Management Areas*, sponsored by the [Forbush Bird Club](#). Meet at 6:00 PM at the [Bolton Flats WMA](#) parking lot on Rt. 117 to search for rails, bitterns, and shorebirds; and/or, at 7:30 PM, meet at Pine Hill WMA parking area, Pine Hill Rd. (off Harvard Rd.) Lancaster (1½ miles west of junction of Routes 110 and 117) for Whip-poor-will and American Woodcock. Click [here](#) or contact trip leader Bart Kamp [(508) 753-7463, bartdk@charter.net] for more info. (Rain date: Friday, May 22.)

May 21 (Thursday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Greenough Greenway Benefit Cocktail*, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM at the [Cambridge Boat Club](#). "The [Head Of The Charles Regatta](#) (HOCR) is hosting a spring cocktail party to celebrate the start of construction on the mile-long [Greenough Greenway](#) and to help raise the dollars needed to complete this transformative project led by the DCR and Solomon Foundation. The event will include a presentation on the project with beer, wine, soda and hors d'oeuvres provided. Money raised will go toward the Boathouse Path, the last 1500 feet of shore path between the Belmont Hill/Winsor Boathouse and the HOCR Finish Line, and a pair of monuments marking the Finish Line of the HOCR course." To RSVP or for more info on the event, contact Kate Broderick at the Head Of The Charles at (617) 547-3513 or kbroderick@hocr.org.

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May 23– May 29

May 23 (Saturday) – LITTLE RIVER (BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED) – *Birding the Frank Knowles Little River Reserve*, 7:00 AM start, co-sponsored by the [Paskamansett Bird Club](#) and the Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust. The DNRT's [Frank Knowles-Little River Reserve](#) "is a beautiful property, consisting of mostly upland woodlands". Trip leaders: Linda Vanderveer and Bill Gil. Call Linda for meeting place: (508) 991-2289.

May 23 (Saturday) – NORTH RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Clamming on the North River*, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, sponsored by the [North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#) (NSRWA). "Come clamming with us before the [shellfish beds close for the season](#) on May 31. You must have your own equipment, which should include a clam rake, bucket, water shoes or boots and [Scituate shellfishing permit](#) (\$20/residents, \$50/non-residents). You will be transported out to the flats by boat. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. The cost is \$10 for NSRWA members, \$15 for non-members, and includes the boat trip to the sand flats. We will meet at [Roht Marine](#)." Click [here](#) to register or for more info.

May 23 (Saturday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Moderate Hike at Maudslay State Park* in Newburyport, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, sponsored by the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Meet at the Park Headquarters: [74 Curzon Mill Rd. Newburyport](#) (note that there is a \$5 parking fee). Click [here](#) or call (978) 465-4303 for more info.

May 23 (Saturday) – TEN MILE RIVER – *Ninth Annual City of Attleboro River Clean-up*, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM (rain or shine), sponsored by the City of Attleboro. Volunteers can either help clean up the river or collect trash from the riverbanks and walking paths. All ages welcome. Meet at the Community Gardens, Riverbank Road (aka 37 Hayward St.). Contact Conservation Agent Tara Martin at conservation@cityofattleboro.org or (508) 223-2222 ext. 3145 for more info.

May 23 (Saturday) – WEST RIVER (BLACKSTONE WATERSHED) – *Bird Banding at West Hill*, 6:30 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by Mass. Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. "Join us at the bird banding station at West Hill Park in Uxbridge. We will walk the net lanes and hopefully catch a variety of warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, and sparrows. You will have the opportunity to see these amazing birds up close, watch the banding process, and learn field ID skills in the process. While we are walking and banding, we will be surrounded by bird songs to learn. We will also demonstrate proper technique for releasing these birds so that you can be part of the banding process. After banding, we will hike some of the trails in West Hill Park back into wooded swamps and other productive habitats for additional species." Instructors: Strickland Wheelock and Beth Milke. Fee: Adult \$40/member, \$48/non-member. Click [here](#) or call (781) 259-2200 to sign up or for more info.

May 23 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Garlic Mustard Grab*, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, at [The Trustees of Reservations](#) (TTOR)'s [Dinosaur Footprints](#) property in Holyoke. "Help TTOR staff and volunteers in continuing to develop and improve the visitor trail and property in preparation for Spring. Tasks include Garlic Mustard and other invasive plant control, trash tidying and trail cleaning, all the while enjoying beautiful Dinosaur Footprints! All tools provided. Please dress in long-pants, a work shirt and sturdy shoes. Bring gloves, snack, and water. Please Pre-Register." Click [here](#) or call (413) 532-1631 ext. 21 to sign up or for more info on this free event.

May 23 (Saturday) – OTTER RIVER (MILLERS WATERSHED) – *Otter River State Forest Family Fishing Festival*, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Baldwinville, co-sponsored by MassWildlife and the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. The event takes place at Beaman Pond in the [Lake Dennison Recreation Area](#). "Come celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Massachusetts first State Forest – Otter River State Forest – by participating in this family fun event. This is a free, learn-to-fish event that is open to anyone. Bring your fishing equipment, or borrow ours - limited equipment and bait will be provided." Click [here](#) or contact Jim Lagacy [(508) 389-6309, jim.lagacy@state.ma.us] or Michael Travaglini [(978) 939-8962, michael.travaglini@state.ma.us] for more info.

May 24 (Sunday) – BLACKSTONE RIVER – *Spring Hike/Picnic along Blackstone River, Uxbridge*, 10:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Bay State Outdoor Trekkers Meetup Group](#). "A four-hour walk along the Blackstone River for approx. 8 miles at a moderate, steady pace. This terrain is flat with a few rolling small hills. The ground is gravel in some parts of the trail as well as covered with roots along the way so be prepared for your boot to snatch on to some roots. The scenery should be fantastic. Also, there are some wood bridges". Click [here](#) to sign up or for more into.

May 24 (Sunday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Housatonic Flats Family Hike*, 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, co-sponsored by the [Berkshire Natural Resources Council](#) and Berkshire Community College. "Come out and bring your whole family (even the dog!) for this beautiful hike at BNRC's Housatonic Flats property in Great Barrington. The property features a mowed path through a floodplain, and offers multiple views of the Housatonic River. The terrain has very little elevation changes, making it a perfect hike for all abilities! Directions: From the center of Great Barrington, go North on Rt. 7. After passing the Radio Station, look for a left hand turn right across from Chelsea & Co. From Pittsfield, take Rt. 7 South into Great Barrington. After passing CHP on the left, look for the right hand turn across from Chelsea & Co." Click [here](#) or write to mleavitt@bnrc.net for more info.

May 24 (Sunday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Baldi 5 Mile River Run & Fitness Walk* in Haverhill, 10:30 AM start, sponsored by the [Garibaldi Liguria Club](#). The [flat race course](#) runs along the scenic Merrimack River for almost its entire length. “Join us after your run or walk for our post race party. We’ll be serving frosty adult beverage and soda for the kids. On the grill we’ll have hot dogs and hamburgers that you can enjoy while listening to tunes spun by our DJ. This all happens on the banks for the Mighty Merrimack, next to Haverhill’s new Riverwalk.” Click [here](#) for more info.

May 24 (Sunday) – FOX CREEK (NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Kayak Fox Creek*, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM in Ipswich, sponsored by [The Trustees of Reservations](#). “Have you ever wanted to kayak the winding waters that meander through the marsh between the Ipswich River and Essex Bay? Join us at Steep Hill Beach for this late-in-the-day adventure as we paddle Fox Creek, the oldest man-made tidewater canal in the United States! As we wend our way through the marsh, we’ll be on the lookout for herons, egrets, and other shore birds -- with luck we’ll spot an osprey hunting for its supper! We’ll supply the kayaks and lifejackets; please call to learn more. Limited to ages 15 and older.” Fee: \$35/members, \$50/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (978) 810-5892 to sign up or for more info.

May 25 (Monday) – MATTAPOISETT RIVER (BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED) – *Rochester Memorial Day Boat Race*, 8:30 AM, sponsored by the Town of Rochester Fire Department. The race begins at Grandma Hartley’s Reservoir on Snipatuit Road. It finishes at the Herring Weir, River Road at Route 6, in Mattapoisett. The race is open to persons of all ages. There will be two persons to a boat. The boat must be a homemade river racer design of any material you choose. There are no limitations or restrictions on types of paddles. Divisions include open/men’s, women’s, junior boys, junior girls, co-ed and parent/child. Junior division teams are both contestants under 14 years old. Trophies are awarded to the first, second and third place finishers in each division, and are presented at 7:30 PM on Memorial Day at the Rochester Memorial School on Pine Street. Although no entry fee is charged to take part in the race, pre-registration is required: contestants can register at the Rochester Grange Hall, 205 Hartley Road, Friday, May 8 and Friday, May 15, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The Boat Race Ham and Bean supper will be served on the Saturday evening of the Memorial Day weekend, May 23, 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Rochester Memorial School. Proceeds from the supper, along with donations, fund the expenses of the race. Contact Boat Race Chairman Arthur F. Benner at (508) 763-2024 for more info. [Click [here](#) to see a YouTube video of the 2013 Boat Race.]

May 25-27 (Monday - Wednesday) – NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED – *Salt Marsh and Songbirds Eco-Bike Adventure*, sponsored by [Great Freedom Adventures](#). Explore the vast richness of Massachusetts’ [Great Marsh](#) and national wildlife refuges on this three-day, guided bike tour through the North Shore. Discover a destination world-famous for nature study, encompassing thousands of acres of salt marsh, one of the most productive ecosystems on the planet. The eco-bike tours are timed to coincide with the return of songbirds to one of the finest bird-watching destinations in the eastern U.S. and the bloom of colorful native azaleas and rhododendrons. Click [here](#) or call (508) 545-1864 for more info. [This same trip is also offered the weekends of May 31-June 2 and June 21-23, 2015.]

May 26 (Tuesday) – QUINSIGAMOND RIVER (BLACKSTONE WATERSHED) – *Flatwater paddle in South Grafton*, launching promptly at 6:15 PM behind the Riverview Apartments, off Route 122 in Fisherville. This event is sponsored by the [Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association](#) (RICKA)’s [Blackstone Valley Paddle Club](#). Suitable for all levels of experience. Club membership is required to take part in this event; click [here](#) for more details. Click [here](#) or contact Cheryl at stonefoxfarm@cox.net or (401)647-5887 for more info. In the event of a last minute cancellation or modification to a paddle trip, please check the [Message Board](#) as well as your e-mail and the [website](#) for updates.

May 27 (Wednesday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Introduction to River Canoeing*, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM in South Lee, sponsored by the [Housatonic Valley Association](#). “Join the HVA for a free introduction to canoeing on a flatwater stretch of the Housatonic River in Lee. If you have never been in a canoe, then join us to learn how to safely enter and exit a canoe, the basic strokes, appropriate attire and pre-trip preparation. Enjoy a short paddle

upstream to enjoy beautiful views of Beartown State Forest. Families with children 10yrs+ welcome. Canoes and equipment provided. Program support provided by [Housatonic Heritage](#).” Contact Alison at the HVA at (413) 394-9796 or adixon@hvatoday.org to sign up or for more info.

May 28 (Thursday) – STATEWIDE – “Spring for Clean Water”, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM in Boston, sponsored by (and benefiting) [Clean Water Action](#). “Together, let’s celebrate what we’ve achieved in the past year and build our power for future victories such as shifting our state away from dirty power, kicking toxic flame retardant chemicals out of all children’s and consumer products, and advancing Boston toward its goal of Zero Waste.” The event will take place at the Bell in Hand Tavern, 45 Union St (near Faneuil Hall – see [map](#)). Click [here](#) to purchase tickets, or contact Amanda Sebert [(617) 338-8131 ext. 201 or asebert@cleanwater.org] for more info.

May 28 (Thursday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *Workday at the Keystone Arch Bridges* over the Westfield River, sponsored by [Westfield River Wild & Scenic](#). “Haul and cut brush to help preserve the historic Keystone Arch Bridges. Our wonderful climbers will be on hand to remove the vegetation from the bridges. We need you to help move it into the woods.” Call (413) 623-2070 or write to volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org to sign up or for more info.

May 28 (Thursday) – MATTAPOISETT RIVER (BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED) – “Women in Waders: Bugging Out”, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM at [The Bogs](#), Mattapoisett, sponsored by the [Buzzards Bay Coalition](#). “Love bugs? Hate bugs? Either way, you’ll be amazed at the diversity of life that exists at the edge of the Mattapoisett River. We’ll put you in waders and send you out in search of aquatic macroinvertebrates (aka ‘big water bugs’). You’ll learn about the interesting adaptations of these unusual creatures, many of which you may have never seen before!” This free event is open to women and girls 14 and under accompanied by an adult. Registration is required for all Bay Adventures. To RSVP, contact the Coalition at bayadventures@savebuzzardsbay.org or (508) 999-6363 ext. 219 or. Click [here](#) for more info on this and two other “Women in Waders” adventures.

May 29 (Friday) – SUDBURY-ASSABET-CONCORD WATERSHED – *Spring Birding Exploration at the Rookery*, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM in Concord, MA, sponsored by Mass. Audubon’s Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary. “What are those huge nests weighing down tall tree tops? This group of great blue herons nests make up a rookery. Most of the time, these beautiful birds are well camouflaged as they wade through wetlands fishing with their long beaks for frogs, fish and even crayfish. The rookery gives a different view of great blue herons, as they perch majestically and take flight with their 6-foot wingspans returning to the nest to feed their young. Come learn more about these amazing birds! Other species we may see include wood duck, brown creeper, belted kingfisher, and five species of woodpecker. Kathy Stark Dia will be your Birding Instructor. Fee: Adults \$15/members, \$18/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 655-2296 to sign up or for more info.

May 29 (Friday) – MILLERS RIVER WATERSHED – *Stormwater/LID workshop* in Greenfield, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, co-sponsored by the [Millers River Watershed Council](#) (MRWC) and the [Franklin Regional Council of Governments](#) (FRCOG). This is the first of a series of three free public workshops addressing stormwater management for towns in the Franklin County half of the Millers watershed. The EPA-funded program focuses on using low impact development (LID) techniques to reduce pollution and flooding and recharge groundwater. To learn more and to reserve your seat, please click [here](#) or [here](#), or contact Gretchen Johnson at gjohnson@frcog.org or (413) 774-3167 ext. 126.

May 29 (Friday) – BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED – “Coastal Plants 2015: Moving Beyond Just Beachgrass” workshop, taking place at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)’s Quissett Campus in Woods Hole. Workshop topics include increasing plant diversity on dunes and shorelines, plant adaptation to climate change and sea level rise, strategies to minimize the use of inorganic fertilizers, and lessons learned after Hurricane Sandy. Click [here](#) or contact Greg Berman at gberman@whoi.edu for more info.

May 29 (Friday) – SCORTON CREEK (CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED) – *Kayak Scorton Creek* in Sandwich, 10:00 AM (sharp) start, sponsored by the [Kayak and Walk Cape Cod Meetup Group](#). “Scorton Creek is a wonderful tidal creek that winds its way through a scenic salt marsh. We’ll paddle as far as we can, taking a few detours along the way. When we get back to the launch site, the people who want to continue paddling can head north, under 6A, and head toward the ocean; the current can be swift right just before the ocean. If you haven’t been here before, leave plenty of time to find the launch at [Craven’s Landing](#). No parking sticker is ever required, but there is very limited parking area at this State Wildlife Reservation.” Click [here](#) for basic info on this group and its paddling trips, and [here](#) to sign up or for more specific info on this event.

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May 30 – June 5

May 30 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Birding Paddle trip*, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM starting in Stockbridge, sponsored by the [Housatonic Valley Association](#) (HVA). “Join the HVA for a leisurely, 5 mile paddle trip along the Housatonic River through Stockbridge. Free. Canoes and equipment provided. Or register to bring your own boat. Learn about and look for birds common to the river habitat, including Baltimore orioles. Families with children 10yrs+ welcome. Program support provided by [Housatonic Heritage](#). Click [here](#), call (413) 394-9796 or write to or adixon@hvatoday.org to sign up or for more info.

May 30 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Celebrate Birds: First Annual Valley Bird Festival*, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM. “Join environmental organizations from throughout the valley for the first Valley Bird Festival. This fun-filled day of learning about our feathered friends takes place at [Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary \(127 Combs Rd., Easthampton\)](#) and the Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Hadley. This free event includes live birds of prey presentations, games, bird walks, activities and information for all ages. “Eyes on Owls” at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM features owls from New England and beyond. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to learn about these amazing birds and get a close-up view of six different owls. In addition to the event at Arcadia, bird walks led by the Friends of Fort River and a falconry demonstration by Chris Davis will take place from 8:00 – 10:00 AM at the [Conte Refuge’s Fort River Division \(69 Moody Bridge Rd., Hadley\)](#). Festival organizers include [Hampshire Bird Club](#), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mass Audubon, Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, Hitchcock Center for the Environment, [Friends of the Fort River Wildlife Sanctuary](#) and Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. Festival sponsors include the [Springfield Naturalists Club](#) and Hadley Garden Center. Click [here](#) for more info.

May 30 (Saturday) – SUCKER BROOK (CHICOPEE WATERSHED) – *Second Annual BioBlitz, at Pynchon’s Grist Mill Preserve* in West Brookfield, 9:00 AM start, sponsored by the [East Quabbin Land Trust](#). “Join professional naturalists at an EQLT Preserve to document all the living creatures we can find on this 42-acre property. Early in spring should be good for migrating birds and flowering spring plants, but who knows! With the late spring the timing may be off. Regardless, we’ll document what we see. Come get to know the property and help us learn more about the land.” The [Pynchon’s Grist Mill Preserve](#) is located on Wickaboag Valley Road in West Brookfield. Click [here](#) or call (413) 477-8229 for more info.

May 30 (Saturday) – HODGE BROOK (MILLERS WATERSHED) – *Birding and Habitat Restoration Field Trip*, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM in Warwick, co-sponsored by the Athol Bird and Nature Club and the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. “Join Mount Grace and the Athol Bird and Nature Club in celebrating this year’s international migratory bird day theme ‘restore habitat restore birds’. We will discover birds in a variety of habitats including beaver meadows and spruce swamps and learn about a new habitat restoration project that is about to take place. This event is for all ages, no experience necessary. We will have a small selection of binoculars and field guides for people to use. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, insect repellent, binoculars, bird books etc. Participants must be able to walk on uneven terrain. Meet at the trailhead for the [Arthur Iversen Conservation Area](#), Gale Rd., Warwick (see [map](#)).” Click [here](#) or write to ophiogomphus@gmail.com for more info.

May 30 (Saturday) – MYSTIC and CHARLES RIVERS – *Boston Greenbelt Walk*, a one-day, 32-mile walk from Waban or Riverside MBTA station in Newton to Oak Grove MBTA station in Malden. The Boston Greenbelt Walk is a coordinated effort organized by many local and regional trail coordinators, the trail planning group of the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council \(MAPC\)](#) and the long distance walking organization, [FreeWalkers](#). This free event is intended to celebrate the fact that many trails in the Greater Boston area have improved in recent years, thanks to the dedicated efforts of many enthusiastic communities and individuals. After many years of planning, the trails can now be connected and serve as a longer regional trail for pedestrians and cyclists. While the length of the entire Walk is 32 miles, the walk route has been planned to maximize the use of mass transportation from the beginning to the end – and in between, and there are options for shorter walks (i.e., taking part on only a portion of the Walk route). Click [here](#), [here](#), or contact David Loutzenheiser [DLoutzenheiser@mapc.org or (617) 933-0743] for more info.

May 30 (Saturday) – PLUM ISLAND SOUND – *Essex County Salt Marshes and Estates bike ride*, sponsored by the [Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). “Essex County Spring ride around coastal salt marshes overlooking Plum Island Sound and Ipswich Bay. Views from Great Neck and Little Neck. Stops at Crane Estate and Crane Beach, with refreshments at a local orchard for hot cider and snacks. Easy pace. Some hills. Rain cancels.” Pre-registration is required; click [here](#) or contact trip leader Edward McManmon [(781) 639-4297 (best time to call: before 9:00 PM), epmcmannon@nii.net] to sign up or for more info.

May 30 (Saturday) – SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED – *Pine Fest: A Pine Barrens Multicultural Celebration!*, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Charge Pond Campground Pavilion, [Myles Standish State Forest](#), Carver, sponsored by the [Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance](#) (SEMPBA). Pine Fest, a free, family-friendly event, is an “exciting day of playful environmental education and community building. The objective was to teach important conservation concepts in a meaningful, motivating and fun context. The event will also highlight the contributions that a variety of ethnic groups have made throughout history as well as their current impact on the pine barrens and the region’s natural resources. Participation in Pine Fest is also free to [‘Friends’ groups](#) and conservation organizations that provide free family nature-engagement activities that promote land stewardship and sustainable outdoor recreation and living in Southeastern Massachusetts.” Click [here](#) or [here](#) for more info.

May 30 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Accessible Recreation Fair*, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM at [Artesani Playground, Soldiers Field Road in Allston](#), sponsored by the [Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation](#) (DCR). “DCR’s Universal Access Program (UAP) will offer a free, fun-filled day of celebrating Accessible Outdoor Recreation available for individuals, families and friends of people with disabilities. Activities will include a cycling fair with an assortment of accessible cycles available for use; other adaptive recreational activities, including hiking, letterboxing, face painting and interpretive programs; music; snacks, including Starbucks Coffee, Legal Seafood’s Chowder and much more! Join us rain or shine [call (617) 626-1294 for recorded status in case of severe weather] and enjoy the accessible recreation fair and the beauty of the Charles River running along the park. Enjoy the camaraderie while learning about DCR’s inclusive, accessible programs and resources available to people of all abilities around the state. Pre-registration is highly recommended, especially for use of equipment; call Gigi at (617) 626-1294, including if you’d like to volunteer at the event. Please RSVP to request an ASL interpreter. For additional info on DCR’s Universal Access Program and a schedule of activities, or to confirm program status, call (617) 626-1294 (voice), (413) 577-2200 (TTY) or click [here](#).”

May 30 (Saturday) – NORTH RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Guided Fly Fishing Expedition for Striped Bass*, 6:00 AM-10:00 AM in Scituate, sponsored by the [North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#) (NSRWA). “Go on a guided, 4-hour fly fishing expedition for Striped Bass at the Spit – the mouth of the North River! Have an experience of a lifetime fishing with those who know how to catch fish on the North River using fly fishing gear. You must have your own equipment, including your own saltwater fly rod with an appropriate line and waders. Flies and leaders will be provided if necessary. The cost is \$75 for NSRWA members and \$100 for non-members, which includes a membership in the NSRWA. Space is limited to 6 people per trip, which includes a boat ride to the Spit. We embark from [Roht Marine](#).” Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

May 30 (Saturday) – CAPE COD BAY – *Sunset Barnstable Harbor Kayak and Climb Sandy Neck Lighthouse*, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Join us as we kayak Cape Cod’s largest barrier beach and salt marsh system and see for yourself why this is one of the state’s most impressive coastal ecosystems. Traveling the great marsh by kayak offers a whole new perspective on nature, and an intimacy with the tide. It also allows you to get into shallow waters, where larger boats can’t go! Launching from Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, we will explore the many tidal creeks and islands of the harbor, looking for shorebirds, osprey, horseshoe crabs and other creatures of the marsh. We’ll come ashore at the Sandy Neck barrier beach lighthouse and have the unusual privilege of climbing to the top to see the beautiful view.” Audience: Adults and children 12 year and older. Kayaks and paddling gear are provided. Fee: \$43/members, \$48/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 362-7475 to sign up or for more info.

May 31 (Sunday) – CHASE GARDEN CREEK (CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED) – *Paddle Chase's Garden Creek* in Yarmouth Port, 10:00 AM (sharp) start, sponsored by the [Kayak and Walk Cape Cod Meetup Group](#). “Chase Garden Creek winds its way into a beautiful marsh in Yarmouth Port. High tide in Barnstable Harbor is 10:43 AM, so launching 45 minutes before high tide should both give us plenty of water all the way up the creek and not have us going against the flow on the return trip. There is no place to take a break. The launch area is flanked on the left by a long boardwalk, where people go to see the sunset and the gorgeous views of Cape Cod Bay and a beach area on the right. There is an active osprey nest next to the boardwalk and five more osprey nests in the marsh.” Click [here](#) for basic info on this group and its paddling trips and [here](#) to sign up or for more specific info on this event.

May 31 (Sunday) – ALLOWANCE BROOK (SUDBURY WATERSHED) – *Great Blue Heron Rookery field trip*, 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM in Sudbury, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “The [Sudbury Valley Trustees' Lyons-Cutler Reservation](#), located along Allowance Brook in Sudbury, contains wetlands and beautiful red maple, mixed oak and white pine uplands. The upland forest descends gently to a swamp with a Great Blue Heron rookery where we can get very close views of the domestic life of the herons and hear their growling offspring. Around the swamp we could also see Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Tree and Rough-winged Swallow, Red-Winged Blackbird, Kingfisher, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Flicker, and Eastern Bluebird. The hike through the woods could produce several species of warblers, Wood Thrush, Brown Creeper, Baltimore Oriole, Brown Thrasher, Blue-Headed Vireo, and migrating flycatchers of various species.” Fee: Adults \$22/members, \$26/non-members. Pre-registration is required; click [here](#) or call (781) 259-2200 to register or for more info.

May 31 (Sunday) – SUDBURY-ASSABET-CONCORD WATERSHED – *Guided walk at Gowing's Swamp* in Concord, 1:30PM – 3:30 PM, sponsored by the [Sudbury Valley Trustees](#). “[Gowing's Swamp](#) is an enchanting, level bog complex set within a dramatically glaciated landscape, including a deep kettlehole bog in the southern end. Join our spring walk along the verdant shorelines, fields, and ridges that encircle Gowing's Swamp, enjoy its many beautiful vistas, seasonal flowers and fragrances, learn more about the bog's ecology, and discover the rich history of this very special Concord landscape. The walk will begin with an introduction to the Playscape at Ripley, a unique nature park that will serve as an accessible outdoor experience for all ages and abilities. We'll meet in the Ripley Playscape gathering circle behind the Ripley School at the end of Meriam Road in Concord, MA.” The walk will be led by Educator/Naturalist/Photographer [Cherrie Corey](#). Fee: free (members), \$10 (nonmembers). Click [here](#) for more info and [here](#) to register.

May 31 (Sunday) – SUDBURY RIVER – *Art, Music and Nature celebration* in Sudbury, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, sponsored by (and benefiting) the [Sudbury Valley Trustees](#) (SVT). “Join SVT at [Wolbach Farm](#) for this exclusive event featuring Richard ‘Gus’ Sebring, Associate Principal Horn for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Principal Horn for the Boston Pops. This past holiday season was the second time Gus was enlisted to create a musical journey on the Sudbury River for the Holiday Pops program. Attendees at this celebration will learn more about why the Sudbury River and this region inspire his artwork, combining his love of music, art, and nature. Click [here](#) or call (978) 443-5588 for more info.

May 31 (Sunday) – IPSWICH RIVER – *Lob's Pound Birding walk* in Reading, 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM, sponsored by the [Ipswich River Watershed Association](#). “Spring is finally here, and it’s a wonderful time to get out and explore open spaces in Reading. Local birder Dave Williams will be conducting this Sunday morning bird walk at Lob’s Pound Mill site, on Mill St. (see [map](#)). We’ll bird there for a while and then drive to another near-by location. The walk is free and open to all - young and old, regardless of bird watching experience. If you have any questions, contact Dave Williams at 781-944-8118 or at: dave.williams6@gmail.com”.

May 31 (Sunday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Doors Open at Norumbega Tower along the Upper Charles River Reservation*, 12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM in Weston, sponsored by the Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). “Meet at the stone tower. Park along Norumbega Road near River Road in Weston. “Ever wonder why there is a statue of Leif Ericson on the Commonwealth Mall in Boston? Come climb the Norumbega Tower and learn how in the late 19th century the Boston Brahmins, a paternalistic violinist from Norway, and the baking powder magnate from Harvard University crusaded to discredit Christopher Columbus and his ‘founding’ of North America in favor of a Norse perspective. All ages, rain or shine (lightning cancels). Dogs on leash.” Click [here](#) or contact DCR’s Office of Cultural Resources at (617) 626-1389 for more info.

May 31 (Sunday) – NASHUA RIVER – *“Gifts of the Glaciers”*, 7:45 AM – 6:30 PM in Groton, another in the *Connecting Communities* series presented by the Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition and the [Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area](#). Groton’s geographic location and the impacts of the Ice Age glaciers that once covered the region have created a rich geological and biological environment that is unique in Massachusetts. About one-third of Groton is public open space, with a network of over 110 miles of trails, 17 miles of the Squannacook and Nashua Rivers, plus Lost Lake and several large ponds. Attend the Keynote Presentation and select from a full day of activities such as biking, hiking, and paddling to explore the rivers, wetlands, eskers, drumlins, and kettle holes left behind by the glaciers, and learn about the history of Groton, both pre- and post-settlement. [See full list of activities](#). Unless otherwise indicated, activities are suitable for families with children. All activities are free except the canoeing/ kayaking. These activities were organized by the Groton Trails Committee, Groton Conservation Trust, Nashua River Watershed Association, Groton Greenway Committee, Groton Historical Society, Nashoba Paddler, LLC, Wachusett NEMBA, and Groton Sustainability Commission to introduce newcomers to Groton and to educate all about the biodiversity that defines this area. RSVP and Contact Information: Pre-registration is required for Geology Bus Tour (geologytour@embedinc.com). Other questions, contact Paul Funch at (978) 448-2813 or pgfunch@verizon.net.

May 31 (Sunday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *Gobble Mountain hike*, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, sponsored by the [Westfield Wild and Scenic River Committee](#). “Ascend the rugged trail to spectacular views of the Westfield River valley and imagine a connecting footpath through the Hilltowns.” Pre-registration required.” Contact Meredyth Babcock at (413) 623-2070 or volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org to sign up for more info.

June 1 (Monday) – SUDBURY, ASSABET AND CONCORD RIVERS – *“A Window on the River”*, the 2015 Annual Meeting of [OARS: For the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers](#), 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM at the Maynard Golf Club, 50 Brown Street (Rt. 27), Maynard. “OARS turns 30 next year! Join us for an interactive evening as we look back at memorable moments, successes and challenges, and take peek into our future. Come hear perspectives from founding members and volunteers and even bring your own stories! Whether you are a long-time member, recently joined OARS, have been a volunteer or would like to just learn, we welcome your ideas on how to recognize and celebrate our organization. Light refreshments and desserts will be served. Cash bar. This event is free and open to the public”. Click [here](#) for more info.

June 2 (Tuesday) – IPSWICH and SHAWSHEEN WATERSHEDS – *Greenscaping and the Benefits of Native Plants*, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM in North Andover, sponsored by the [North Andover Wildlife Team](#). “The North Andover Wildlife Team (NAWT) is committed to improving the ecology of our town. The best way to do this is to add native plants to the landscape. Come hear about the benefits of native plants and learn about other ‘[greenscaping](#)’ ways you can have a beautiful lawn and garden using less chemicals and water”. The presentation will take place at the [Stevens Memorial Library](#), 345 Main St, North Andover.

June 2 (Tuesday) – BLACKSTONE RIVER and CANAL – *Paddle the Blackstone Canal at River Bend Farm* in Uxbridge, 6:15 PM (sharp) start at the [Tri-River Medical Parking Lot](#) (corner of Oak St. and Hartford Ave.), sponsored by the [Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association](#) (RICKA)'s [Blackstone Valley Paddle Club](#). Paddle on a remnant of the Blackstone Canal to the historic Goat Hill Lock, or more experienced paddlers can paddle the “loop”: down the river, and then up the canal. (Click [here](#) to view an informative video from 2011 of the Blackstone Canal and River paddling loop.) NPS Ranger Chuck Arning will be on hand to provide interpretive info. Club membership is required to take part in this event; click [here](#) for more details. Click [here](#) or contact Cheryl at stonefoxfarm@cox.net or (401)647-5887 for more info on this trip. In the event of a last minute cancellation or modification to a paddle trip, please check the [Message Board](#) and the [website](#) for updates.

June 4 (Thursday) – MASSACHUSETTS BAY and CAPE COD BAY WATERSHEDS – *Ocean Stewardship Spotlight Lecture: Notes from the Field: Conditions and Trends in Massachusetts Bay and Cape Cod Bay*, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Simons IMAX Theatre in Boston, sponsored by the [New England Aquarium](#). “Massachusetts Bay and Cape Cod Bay are bordered by 50 communities, home to 1.7 million people, all of whom impact the Bays in one way or another. The MassBays National Estuary Program, one of 28 NEPs established under the Clean Water Act, is charged with assessing those impact, and reporting on trends over time—addressing questions like “Is water quality in the Bays improving?” and “Are herring coming back to our rivers?” and even, “Can our salt marshes survive sea level rise?”. Join MassBays Director Pam DiBona for a report on the State of the Bays based on a recent scientific symposium, and Samantha Woods, Director of the North and South Rivers Watershed Association, who brings hundreds of volunteers to the task of finding answers to these questions”. Click [here](#) to register and [here](#) for more info.

June 5 (Friday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Kayak Eco-tour at Nahanton Park* in Newton, 5:00 PM start, offered by [Charles River Canoe and Kayak](#). “Charles River Canoe & Kayak’s Eco-Tours at our Nahanton Park rental location in Newton are a great way to view and learn about the wildlife that inhabits the Charles and its shoreline. Join our trained naturalist guide as we launch our double kayaks and get a quick introduction to paddling strokes. We will slowly explore this extraordinarily wild section of the river, poking into coves and shallows to find common and not-so-common wildlife. We frequently see great blue herons, turtles, several types of ducks, a variety of songbirds, and perhaps an egret, cormorant, muskrat, river otter, and beaver. Our guide will also net-dip for benthic (bottom-dwelling) organisms like dragonfly larvae and water-boatmen.” Click [here](#) or call (617) 965-5110 to sign up or for more info.

June 5 (Friday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Moonlight Canoe Tour* in Waltham, 7:00 PM start, offered by [Charles River Canoe and Kayak](#). “Dusk is a magical time to be on the water, so what could be more blissful than paddling a canoe by moonlight? We push off as the sun sets for an evening of relaxation, good food, and conversation. Our Moody Street operation, located on the flatwater Lakes District of the Charles, is the perfect location for this opportunity to unwind. As the moon rises to light our way, we’ll watch herons browsing along the banks, river otters fishing for their last meal of the day, and other wildlife settling in for the night. Before and during your time on the water, your guide will share the rich history of the area, including the Canoe Clubs, Norumbega Park and the Totem Pole Ballroom.” Click [here](#) or call (617) 965-5110 to sign up or for more info.

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June 6 – June 12

June 6 (Saturday) – NATIONWIDE – *National Trails Day*, sponsored by the [American Hiking Society](#). Click [here](#) for more info and to find out about events in your area.

June 6 (Saturday) – WESTPORT RIVER (BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED) – *River Day: River Habitats*, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, sponsored by the [Westport River Watershed Alliance](#). The event will take place at the Head of Westport Landing (for activities, education, exhibitors, music, food, fun – starts at 10:00 AM) and Hix Bridge Landing for the “River Paddle” Kick-off at 9:00 AM. Come celebrate WRWA’s 35+ years of environmental

stewardship and learn about the many environmental resources in the watershed. Click [here](#) or call (508) 636-3016 for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – WESTPORT RIVER (BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED) – “Water Music” concert, 12:30 PM, co-sponsored by the [Westport River Watershed Alliance](#), [Mass. Audubon](#) and the [Westport Land Conservation Trust](#). “Celebrate the work of three environmental agencies in Westport, all striving to preserve the natural resources of this unique community. This is the first of a three-concert music series near the waters of Westport, featuring three distinct “voices” in three beautiful settings. Bring a picnic, enjoy the music and learn about the mission of each organization! The June 6 concert features Atwater & Donnelly, and is part of the River Day festivities (see above event). [The remaining concerts take place on 8/16 and 8/22.] Click [here](#) for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED – Basic Wetland Delineation: Vegetation workshop with John Rockwell, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM in Marion, sponsored by the [Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions](#) (MACC), in cooperation with Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program. “Participants will become more familiar with the state methodology of wetland delineation through practice sessions, case studies and a field session. They will be introduced to plant identification and shown how to use the DEP manual ‘Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands under the MA Wetlands Protection Act’.” Click [here](#) to register or for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – Comprehensive Conservators Event at Nahanton Park, sponsored by the [Newton Conservators](#). “Everyone is Welcome! Bring your friends and neighbors, too! Come to enjoy [Nahanton Park](#), which includes riverfront, community garden plots, meadows, wooded hillsides, wild blackberry bushes, wetlands, a pond, and a plateau overlooking the river valley. Enjoy talking with other Conservators and learning from our board members and advisors. Bird Walks starting early in the morning. Canoe and kayak tours will be offered.” Click [here](#) for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – BEAVER BROOK (CHARLES WATERSHED) – Western Greenway Hike, 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM in Belmont, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon’s Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Have you heard of the [Western Greenway](#) but were wondering where it is or where it goes? Are you up for a 6.5 mile morning hike along well maintained trails through forest, meadow and wetlands? Then join us for a late spring walk along this special regional trail system that includes Habitat along with another 1100 acres in Belmont, Lexington and Waltham.” Leading the walk will be Habitat Sanctuary Director Roger Wrubel. Fee: Adults \$20/member, \$25/non-member. Click [here](#) or call (617) 489-5050 to sign up or for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – “Charles to Charles” Urban Day Hike, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM in Boston, sponsored by The Trustees of Reservations. “Come out for a 10-mile, springtime hike connecting many of Boston’s most historic and spectacular green spaces, including the Esplanade, the Arnold Arboretum, and Allandale Woods! The walk will start at the Charles River Esplanade in downtown Boston, and cuts cross-town to end at [Millennium Park](#), also fronting on the Charles, in West Roxbury.” Click [here](#) or write to ngrady@ttor.org for more info on this free event.

June 6 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – Seventh Annual Charles River One Mile Swim, 8:00 AM start at the River Dock by the Hatch Shell, co-sponsored by the [Charles River Swimming Club](#) and the [Charles River Conservancy](#). After decades of pollution, the Charles River has benefited from the ongoing [Clean Charles River Initiative](#), started in 1995 to restore the river’s ecological health. The river is now clean enough on most summer days to meet swimming standards. This race is celebrating the efforts that went into cleaning the river and to highlight the need for continued clean-up to enable recreational swimming in the future. 150 swimmers are expected to participate at this year’s swim race. (The rain date is Sunday, June 15.) Click [here](#) to register for the event or [here](#) for more info. The Swimming Club is always looking for race volunteers as well – click [here](#) if you may be interested.

June 6 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Lower Falls Walk*, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, sponsored by the [Wellesley Trails Committee](#). “Walk through an historic part of Wellesley on National Trails Day. Enjoy scenic views along the river on the Charles River Path. Walk along the brick Waterway, the remnants of proposed development in the 1890’s at Indian Springs Park. Follow the Crosstown Trail on the Cochituate Aqueduct that was built in 1848 to supply water to Boston. Take an optional short walk to the footbridge over the Charles at the Cordingly Dam. Meet at 9:00 AM at the parking lot (free on Saturdays) on River Street off Washington Street. Click [here](#) for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Thirty-Sixth Annual Cambridge River Festival*, 12 Noon – 6:00 PM, sponsored by the [Cambridge Arts Council](#). While the River Festival has traditionally taken place on the banks of the Charles River since its inception in 1977, this year, due to overlapping major construction projects and large scale events taking place on this historical footprint, the Cambridge Arts Council has decided to celebrate the 36th Anniversary of the River Festival in the [Central Square Cultural District](#) (click [here](#) for more info about that decision). This free event brings the Greater Boston community together to enjoy the talents of performers and artists. Click [here](#) for more info on the Festival.

June 6 (Saturday) – CHARLES and NEPONSET RIVERS – *Greenovate Boston Community Summit*, sponsored by the City of Boston’s Office of [Environment, Energy, and Open Space](#). The Community Summit, which will include the 9th Annual Mayor’s Greenovate Awards, will provide a unique opportunity for residents, businesses and community organizations to connect with each other, learn, and help shape the future of sustainability in the City of Boston. Click [here](#) for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – IPSWICH RIVER – *River cleanup*, 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon in North Reading, co-sponsored by the [Reading/North Reading Stream Team](#) and the [Ipswich River Watershed Association](#). “Join us for the annual clean-up. Volunteers are needed to work on shore or by boat. Bring tools, gloves, and a boat if possible.” The cleanup meeting location is the [Ipswich River Park](#), Central St. North Reading. RSVP to rodonnell@ipswichriver.org.

June 6 (Saturday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Kite Festival/SALSA Fiesta on the Merrimack*, 11:00 AM – 3:00PM at Pemberton Park in downtown Lawrence, sponsored by [Groundwork Lawrence](#). The Kite Festival (now called the **SALSA Fiesta**) is a family-friendly event that includes free kite-making and kite-flying at [Pemberton Park](#), on the banks of the Merrimack River. Youth volunteers are needed to help with kite-making. The event also includes lunch (courtesy of the Summer Meals Program), face-painting, music and free trolley rides. To volunteer or learn more, click [here](#) or contact [Rosa](#) at (978) 974-0770 ext. 7001.

June 6 (Saturday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Thirty-seventh Annual Lou Marcel Canoe Race*, 8:00 AM registration and (approx.) 9:00 AM start in Lawrence, benefiting [Susan G. Komen/Massachusetts](#). The non-competitive meander down the Merrimack River will run approximately 8 miles downstream from the start of the race at the Essex County Correctional Center on Commonwealth Avenue in Lawrence to the finish line and post-race VIP reception from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the [Crescent Yacht Club in Bradford](#), with prizes for the best pirate costumes. Don’t own a canoe or kayak, but still want to participate? Thanks to Charles River Canoe and Kayak, canoe/kayak rentals will be delivered to the starting line in Lawrence and retrieved at the Crescent Yacht Club in Bradford for a nominal fee of \$55. Rental boats must be reserved on-line before the day of the race. Click [here](#) to rent your canoe/kayak, or click [here](#) for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – BLACKSTONE RIVER – *“A Day on the Blackstone 2015”*, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, sponsored by the [Blackstone River Watershed Association](#). “The event will begin at River Bend Farm Visitor Center, with a hike along the Canal, and continue with a leisurely paddle from Stanley Woolen Mill in Uxbridge to the Blackstone Gorge, stopping at historical sites along the way. National Park Service Ranger, Chuck Arning, will talk about the importance of the Blackstone River and Canal to the American Industrial Revolution, share some folklore about the Blackstone Valley, and give a commentary at historical sites along the way. Shuttle service will be available and the [Blackstone Valley Paddlers](#) will assist with on the water safety. This event will be limited to 30 canoes/kayaks. Canoes will be available for use for a donation of \$10.” Click [here](#) or write to dayontheblackstone@thebrwa.org to sign up or for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – WARE RIVER (CHICOPEE WATERSHED) – *Birding Barre Falls Dam and Rutland State Park*, 7:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Forbush Bird Club](#). Part of the event will take place at the [U.S. Army Corps' Barre Falls flood control project](#). Meet at the parking lot above the dam, ½ mile south of Route 62 in Hubbardston. Click [here](#) or contact trip leaders Dave Grant [(508) 852-3243] or Donna Schilling [(978) 263-9434, dschilling15@verizon.net] for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – POPPLE CAMP BROOK (CHICOPEE WATERSHED) – *Birding and Habitat Restoration Field Trip*, 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM in Phillipston, co-sponsored by the Athol Bird and Nature Club and the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. “Join Mount Grace and the Athol Bird and Nature Club in celebrating this year’s international migratory bird day theme, ‘restore habitat restore birds’. We will discover birds in a variety of habitats including a restored shrubland, cold water streams and dramatic hardwood forests to learn and experience how different birds utilize different habitats. This event is for all ages, no experience necessary. We will have a small selection of binoculars and field guides for people to use. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, insect repellent, binoculars, bird books etc. Participants must be able to walk on uneven terrain. Meet at the trailhead for the [Fox Valley Conservation Area](#) trailhead parking lot on the north side of Lincoln Rd (see [map](#)).” Click [here](#) or write to ophiogomphus@gmail.com for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Fish Printing for Families* at the [Turners Falls Fishway](#), 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM, sponsored by the [Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center](#). Print your very own T-shirt or tote bag and discover the intricate beauty and important function of fish fins and scales. Learn about resident fish as well as fish that return to the Connecticut River to lay their eggs. Drop in anytime between noon and 2 PM at the Turners Falls Fishway to create your work of art using scientifically accurate replicas of Connecticut River fish. Remember to bring a T-shirt or other material to use for fish printing. Fish T-shirts make great Father’s Day presents. Please wear clothes that can get stained. This event is part of the [Family Fish Day at the Great Falls Discovery Center](#) (see above listing). Families may want to bring along a picnic and enjoy our beautiful riverside picnic area adjacent to the fishway. For ages 6 and older. The event is free and no-pre-registration is required; click [here](#) for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – DEERFIELD RIVER – *Deerfield RiverFest*, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM in Shelburne Falls, sponsored by the [Shelburne Falls Business Association](#) and the [Deerfield River Watershed Association](#). The Festival is intended to educate and celebrate the Deerfield River Watershed. Enjoy vendors, performances and so much more! Activities include educational displays and demonstrations as well as live music and dancing, a colorful Frog & Flower Parade, aquatic bug table, art, crafts, tag, book and plant sales, food vendors, trolley rides, power plant tour, quiet water rafting and paddle boating, and more. Click [here](#) or call (413) 625-2526 for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – DEERFIELD RIVER – *Deerfield River Canoe Trip*, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, sponsored by [The Naturalists Club](#). “The Deerfield River is one of the most pleasant early-summer paddles in western Massachusetts. Starting at the Bardwell bridge in Shelburne, the river meanders through northern forests and picturesque valleys as it makes its way to the Connecticut River in Montague. This 12-mile trip is divided nearly in half by the character of the river; the first six miles flows at a comfortable pace, with occasional waves as the river drops over or around small rapids. These rapids offer new paddlers an opportunity for a bit of fun and a new challenge. The second six miles is a more bucolic paddle as the [Deerfield] river enters the floodplain of the Connecticut River. The river twists and flows gently past high banks leading to agricultural fields. It is not necessary to be an experienced canoeist to join us for this pleasant canoe trip. Space is limited so please call early. Venture Crew 872 of Southwick allows us to use their canoes, paddles and life jackets for a mere \$10/person, so even if you do not own your own canoe, you can join us. Participants should bring water and a lunch. A small dry bag or freezer-strength zip-lock bag can ensure that electronics and optics stay dry in bad weather and in the unlikely event of a capsized boat.” Click [here](#) or contact trip leaders Tom and Nancy Condon [(413) 564-0895] to sign up or for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – “Wild Goose Chase” Canoe/Kayak race, a 9-mile “out and back” race on the Housatonic River, sponsored by the [New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association](#) (NECKRA). “Narrow, shallow, lots of tight turns, deep water, suck water - we have it all!” All NECKRA racing categories for canoes and kayaks. (There is also a five-mile course for recreational and Stand-up paddlers.) \$15 per person. Race starts at 11:00 AM. The event takes place at the [Decker Boat Launch](#) in Lenox. Great lunch following the race. Click [here](#) or contact race organizer Patty Spector [patty.spector@verizon.net or (413) 637-2597] for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – Paddle trip, Rising Pond Dam to the Flats in Great Barrington, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, sponsored by the [Housatonic Valley Association](#). “Join the HVA for a free paddle trip to celebrate National Trails Day. Canoes and equipment provided, or register to bring your own boat. Explore this pleasant, short meandering stretch of the Housatonic River with great views of Monument Mountain. Some paddling experience helpful. Families with teens welcome. Program support provided by [Housatonic Heritage](#).” Click [here](#), call (413) 394-9796 or write to adixon@hvatoday.org to sign up or for more info.

June 6 (Saturday) – CAPE COD BAY – Sunset Barnstable Harbor Kayak and Climb Sandy Neck Lighthouse, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon’s Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Join us as we kayak Cape Cod’s largest barrier beach and salt marsh system and see for yourself why this is one of the state’s most impressive coastal ecosystems. Traveling the great marsh by kayak offers a whole new perspective on nature, and an intimacy with the tide. It also allows you to get into shallow waters, where larger boats can’t go! Launching from Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, we will explore the many tidal creeks and islands of the harbor, looking for shorebirds, osprey, horseshoe crabs and other creatures of the marsh. We’ll come ashore at the Sandy Neck barrier beach lighthouse and have the unusual privilege of climbing to the top to see the beautiful view.” Audience: Adults and children 12 year and older. Kayaks and paddling gear are provided. Fee: \$43/members, \$48/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 362-7475 to sign up or for more info.

June 6-7 (Saturday – Sunday) – STATEWIDE – Free Fishing Weekend, sponsored by [MassWildlife](#). Take a friend or family member fishing - you won’t need a fishing license to fish any public **fresh-water** lake, pond, reservoir, river or stream statewide from 12:00 A.M. Saturday June 6th until 11:59 P.M. Sunday June 7th. While you can fish for free this weekend, all other times you will need a fishing license if you are 15 years of age or older. A fishing license is a wonderful investment in your state, as the fees support fisheries research, fish stocking programs, angler education programs and many other services provided by MassWildlife. Youth aged 15 to 17 will not be charged for a fishing license (they still need to obtain one, though). If you don’t know how to fish, consider attending a Fishing Festival or other fishing-related activities (click [here](#) for more info). All Angler Education programs and festivals are free and don’t require a fishing license for fishing. Contact Jim Lagacy, Program Coordinator for more details at (508) 389-6309 or jim.lagacy@state.ma.us.

June 6-7 (Saturday – Sunday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – Low Impact Canoe Camping in the Deerfield section of the Connecticut, sponsored by the [Worcester Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). “Two days paddling in the Connecticut Valley, with an overnight on an island. Some short quickwater drops of not more than class I and rocks and trees to maneuver around.” Pre-registration is required for this trip; click [here](#) or contact trip leader David Miller [(508) 853-8964, pagayeur@verizon.net] to sign up or for more info.

June 6-7 (Saturday – Sunday) – OTTER and MILLERS RIVERS – Bike Tour to/overnight camping at Otter River State Forest in Templeton, sponsored by the [Worcester Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). Get started with independent, unsupported cycle touring on this two day/one night tour. We will cycle approx. 30 miles per day on roads/bike paths to Otter River State Forest, where we will camp for one night. Participants will set up own tents, and cook/provide their own meals. Campground fees split between participants. Pre-registration is required for this trip; click [here](#) or contact trip leaders Colleen McLaughlin [amc_ne@yahoo.com] or Bill Mullen [billmullen18@gmail.com] to sign up or for more info.

June 7 (Sunday) – BURRAGE POND (TAUNTON WATERSHED) – *Hike at the Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area* in Hanson, 10:00 AM – 12:15 PM, sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. “5-mile hike on abandoned cranberry bog, sandy trails featuring open water and marshland. From Rte. 27 in Hanson, Pleasant Street for 0.2 mi., take sharp right to Hawks Ave. across the tracks, left on dirt road at fence, past building to trailhead. GeoCode N 42 01 49.1 W 70 51 32.3. Bring water and snack. Email if severe weather. No dogs; non-AMC members \$1.” While pre-registration is not required for [this activity](#), you may nevertheless want to contact trip leader Mike Tuohey [breadcrumbs60@gmail.com] if you have any questions.

June 7 (Sunday) – CONCORD RIVER – *Canoeing and Journaling on the Concord River*, 12:00 Noon – 4:30 PM, sponsored by the [Umbrella/Musketaquid](#). “Spend a day with canoes experiencing nature with the opportunity to record in words and art the sightings along the river and our responses to them. We will tie-up our canoes at Great Meadows for a session of journaling interspersed with a bag lunch, selected readings from naturalist authors and illustrators, more journal reflections and conversations that emerge from the intersection of nature, art and the place we are in our lives. The pace is generally low-key, befitting a summer’s day, but there’s plenty of room for canoeists of all paces and spirits! A resource and supply list will be sent to participants ; bring your own lunch and art supplies. Bring your own canoe or rent one from the boat house. Instructor: [Kendall Dudley](#). Fee: \$50. Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

June 7 (Sunday) – NASHUA RIVER – *Groton Greenway River Festival*, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, sponsored by the [Groton Greenway Committee](#). The Festival returns, complete with the famous cardboard canoe races. All events are free. There will be canoeing all day courtesy of [Nashoba Paddler LLC](#), lots of environmental displays and children’s activities, and musical guests including Native American drummers. Food will be available for purchase. The Festival is held on the bank of the Nashua River at the [Petapawag boat launch, Nod Road, Groton](#). Click [here](#), [here](#) or contact Pete Carson at pbcarson@verizon.net for more info.

June 7 (Sunday) – MALDEN and SAUGUS RIVERS – *“Bike to the Sea” Ride*, 9:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Bike to the Sea/Northern Strand Trail](#). Large sections of this year’s ride will be on newly-constructed bike paths (see [map](#)). Click [here](#) or [here](#) for more info.

June 7 (Sunday) – FOX CREEK (NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Kayak Fox Creek*, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM in Ipswich, sponsored by [The Trustees of Reservations](#). “Have you ever wanted to kayak the winding waters that meander through the marsh between the Ipswich River and Essex Bay? Join us at Steep Hill Beach for this late-in-the-day adventure as we paddle Fox Creek, the oldest man-made tidewater canal in the United States! As we wend our way through the marsh, we’ll be on the lookout for herons, egrets, and other shore birds -- with luck we’ll spot an osprey hunting for its supper! We’ll supply the kayaks and lifejackets; please call to learn more. Limited to ages 15 and older.” Fee: \$35/members, \$50/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (978) 810-5892 to sign up or for more info.

June 7 (Sunday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *Fishway Open House*, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM in West Springfield, sponsored by the [Westfield River Watershed Association](#) (WRWA). “This free event offers a ‘once-a-year’ opportunity to tour the fish ladder, and possibly to see a returning adult Atlantic salmon if one’s been captured during the previous day or two. WRWA Board members will be present to describe the history and operation of the fish ladder, and you’ll have a chance to go down into the ‘pit’ to watch fish moving upstream. This is a great experience for both young and old! Parking is available near the old Southworth Paper Company building, 150 Front St., W. Springfield.” Click [here](#) or contact Bill Rose [(413) 786-0195, brose1525@comcast.net] for more info.

June 7 (Sunday) – CONNECTICUT WATERSHED – *Guided birding expedition* at [Bear Swamp](#) in Ashfield, 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM, sponsored by [The Trustees of Reservations](#). “A rare opportunity to visit this special property with [naturalist John Green](#). We will explore a variety of habitats looking and listening for breeding birds.” Fee: free for TTOR members; others \$10. Click [here](#) or call (413) 532-1631 ext.10 to sign up or for more info.

June 7 (Sunday) – MILL RIVER (CONNECTICUT WATERSHED) – *River walk, Leeds to Haydenville*, sponsored by the [Mill River Greenway Initiative](#). Gaby Immerman will lead this walk. Click [here](#) or write to info@millrivergreenway.org to sign up or for more info.

June 7 (Sunday) – CHICKLEY RIVER (DEERFIELD WATERSHED) – *“Read a Stream” River Walk*, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM in West Hawley, sponsored by the [Connecticut River Watershed Council](#) in collaboration with UMass Amherst and the Deerfield River Watershed Association. “Join us to look at several spots along the Chickley River that were heavily damaged by Tropical Storm Irene and are being restored. The walk will give participants a sense of the destructive power of the storm, and how disruptions of this magnitude can be restored, both by natural process and through focused human management activities. Plans are to meet at Berkshire East parking lot at 9:30 AM, and carpool to the Chickley River from there. We will have a UMass van available for the day, capable of carrying about 12 people. [Please note **these plans are tentative**: contact Jerry Schoen at (413) 545-5532 or jschoen@cns.umass.edu to learn more or sign up for the walk.]

June 8 (Monday) – BLACKSTONE WATERSHED – *“Cost-Effective Green Infrastructure in the Blackstone River Watershed”* workshop, 7:00 PM – 7:45 PM at the [Millbury Town Hall](#), sponsored by [Mass. Audubon’s Shaping the Future of Your Community Program](#), along with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), Horsley Witten Group and the Blackstone River Coalition. The workshop will cover case studies illustrating success stories in reducing nutrient loads while making economic progress, and provide info on a competitive technical assistance program. While the target audience for the workshop is Blackstone watershed municipal officials and staff (DPWs, Town Engineers, Planning, Conservation, Finance, Town Managers, etc., and other community or watershed leaders), the program is open to anyone interested in Green Infrastructure and/or Low Impact Development and cost effective solutions to stormwater management in the Blackstone watershed. Please RSVP to Stefanie Covino [scovino@massaudubon.org or (508) 753-6087 ext. 5018. Click [here](#) for more info on the workshop and [here](#) for more background info on the project as a whole.

June 9 (Tuesday) – STATEWIDE – *Earth Night*, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM at the Boston College Club, 100 Federal St., 36th Floor, a party sponsored by (and benefiting) the [Environmental League of Massachusetts](#). “ELM invites you to raise a glass on behalf of the planet! Join us for an old tradition with a new twist. Enjoy drinks, hors-d’oeuvres and spectacular views of Boston from high above the city at our biggest bash of the year. Bringing friends, allies and the environmental community together, Earth Night will feature music, merriment and ways to make a difference for the Massachusetts environment. Tickets start at \$35 and sponsorships at \$500. Space is limited, so reserve your ticket today at <https://earthnight2015.eventbrite.com>. Click [here](#) or call the ELM office at (617) 754-2553 for more info.

June 9 (Tuesday) – NEPONSET RIVER – *Annual Meeting of the Neponset River Watershed Association* (NepRWA), 6:30PM, at Curry College in Milton. “You are invited to join NepRWA staff and Board Members at the 2015 Annual Meeting on June 9 at 6:30pm at Curry College in Milton. This year, our guest speaker will be noted children’s author, illustrator, film maker, and environmental lecturer, [Lynne Cherry](#). Lynne has written and/or illustrated over thirty award-winning books for children. Her best-selling books such as *A River Ran Wild* and *The Great Kapok Tree* teach children a respect for the earth, have sold over a million copies and are translated into many languages. She is also the producer and director of the *Young Voices for the Planet* movie series. Tickets for the Annual Meeting will be available at the beginning of May”. Click [here](#) or call (781) 575-0354 for more info.

June 11 (Thursday) – SAUGUS RIVER – *“Painting Under the Influence” Night*, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM, sponsored by the [Saugus River Watershed Council](#). “Enjoy a great night out with friends while creating your own beautiful painting of a moonlit river. The Saugus River Watershed Council will host a fun-filled Painting Under the Influence Night at the [Fox Hill Yacht Club, 114 Ballard Street](#), Saugus. Beginners welcome! Just bring your friends and have fun while you paint and sip along with dynamic art instructor Joe Cook of Painting Under the Influence. Admission price of \$35 per person includes art supplies and instruction, DJ, and delicious hors d’oeuvres. Cash bar and raffle items will also be available. Advance registration required; proceeds support the Saugus River Watershed

Council's environmental education and river restoration programs. Click [here](#) to sign up or write to srw@shore.net for more info.

June 11 (Thursday) – BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED – “Water Words That Work: Make A Splash with Your Communication!” workshop, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM in New Bedford (click [here](#) for location), co-sponsored by the [Buzzards Bay Coalition](#) and the [Waquoit Bay Reserve Coastal Training Program](#). “Relearn the language that everyday citizens use and you’ll become more confident and successful as you set out to enlighten the uninformed and persuade the undecided to act on behalf of our rivers, ponds, lakes, and oceans. Learn how and why most environmental messages miss the mark and spot the signs of ‘preaching to the choir’ and recognize when you are sending messages that go over your target audience’s head. Then learn to transform professional level conservation writing into messages that are suitable for everyday citizens. Learn to incorporate storytelling techniques into your message, and how to measure the reading level of your materials and determine if it is a good fit for your audience. This workshop includes the results of an in-depth national assessment that provides deeper insight into what triggers environmental stewardship from every day citizens; startling new findings on photos and logos; message approaches that conservation communicators can ‘borrow’ from Amazon, Netflix, and other online powerhouses; tips on grammar choices that makes your readers mad-and how to avoid that!” While the workshop is free, pre-registration is required. Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

June 12 (Friday) – CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED – “Beyond Water Words That Work” workshop, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM in Hyannis, co-sponsored by the [Buzzards Bay Coalition](#) and the [Waquoit Bay Reserve Coastal Training Program](#). “Many organizations do outreach as a key part of achieving their mission yet most find it to be a very challenging aspect of their work. This training will teach you how the pros plan their outreach campaigns, measure their accomplishments, and do it even better next time. The ‘More Than a Message’ training provides big concepts and practical tips participants need to plan and carry out their communication work. The target audience for this workshop includes non-profit organizations, community based groups, municipal boards and committees, local officials, federal and state agency staff and anyone responsible for outreach and communications efforts.” The workshop takes place at the [Hyannis Golf Course, 1840 Iyannough Road in Barnstable](#). While the workshop is free, pre-registration is required. Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

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June 13– June 19

June 13 (Saturday) – SUDBURY RIVER – Wild Walk: Bird and Nature Walk, 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM in Concord, sponsored by the [Emerson Umbrella/Musketaquid](#). “Led by a Musketaquid and Concord Land Conservation Trust naturalist and birder, this walk will explore CLCT’s Hosmer Field in search of birds, butterflies, bugs and flowers. We will search out buntings, orioles, scarlet tanagers and more. This property spans both wetlands, forest and fields, creating the opportunity to see a diversity of wildlife and plants. Bring binoculars, rubber boots, and insect repellent. All ages welcome!” Fee: \$5/person, \$15/family. Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

June 13 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – Pre-Father’s Day Weekend Canoe & Breakfast, 7:00 AM – 11:30 AM, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon’s Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary](#). Celebrate Father’s Day early with a relaxing canoe trip! Watch the morning mist rising off the water. Keep an eye out for great blue herons and other birds gliding over the water. Enjoy the beautiful views as we paddle through Rocky Narrows Reservation and Broadmoor to the South Natick Dam. A hearty breakfast will be served midway on the banks of the river. Canoes, paddles, lifejackets, a basic paddling overview & guides are all provided. Fee: Adults \$45/members; \$55/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 655-2296 to sign up or for more info.

June 13 (Saturday) – NORTH RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – Guided Fly Fishing Expedition for Striped Bass, 6:00 AM – 10:00 AM in Scituate, sponsored by the [North and South Rivers Watershed Association](#) (NSRWA). “Go on a guided, 4-hour fly fishing expedition for Striped Bass at the Spit – the mouth of the North River! Have an experience of a lifetime fishing with those who know how to catch fish on the North River using fly fishing gear. You must have your own equipment, including your own saltwater fly rod with

an appropriate line and waders. Flies and leaders will be provided if necessary. The cost is \$75 for NSRWA members and \$100 for non-members, which includes a membership in the NSRWA. Space is limited to 6 people per trip, which includes a boat ride to the Spit. We embark from [Roht Marine](#).” Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

June 13 (Saturday) – NANTUCKET SOUND – *Birding Morris Island and Causeway*, 7:00 AM – 10:00 AM in Chatham, sponsored by the [Cape Cod Bird Club](#). “We’re going to have some summer-time fun! First we will bird the causeway, then make our way through the neighborhood down to the Morris Island flats for low tide. We will scope the flats on a rising tide while the shorebirds are foraging. High tide will be at 9:51AM. Please be prepared for a lot of sun and wet conditions (possible ankle-high wading). Please meet in the parking lot of the refuge” (see [map](#)). Click [here](#) or contact trip leader Stefanie Paventy [stefpav09@gmail.com] for more info.

June 13 (Saturday) – CAPE COD BAY – *Sunset Barnstable Harbor Kayak and Climb Sandy Neck Lighthouse*, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon’s Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Join us as we kayak Cape Cod’s largest barrier beach and salt marsh system and see for yourself why this is one of the state’s most impressive coastal ecosystems. Traveling the great marsh by kayak offers a whole new perspective on nature, and an intimacy with the tide. It also allows you to get into shallow waters, where larger boats can’t go! Launching from Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, we will explore the many tidal creeks and islands of the harbor, looking for shorebirds, osprey, horseshoe crabs and other creatures of the marsh. We’ll come ashore at the Sandy Neck barrier beach lighthouse and have the unusual privilege of climbing to the top to see the beautiful view.” Audience: Adults and children 12 year and older. Kayaks and paddling gear are provided. Fee: \$43/members, \$48/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 362-7475 to sign up or for more info.

June 13 (Saturday) – DEERFIELD RIVER – *Fife Dam to Shunpike Canoe/Kayak Race*, sponsored by the [New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association](#) (NECKRA). You can either start from Fife Dam to Shunpike, or the Picnic area to Shunpike. Class I, II & III Downriver, depending on which start option you choose. Registration begins at 11:30 AM, and the race begins at 1:00 PM. Click [here](#) or contact [Rosemary Longo-Nutt](#) [(860) 531-9727] for more info.

June 13 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Family hike on the Old Mill Trail*, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon in Hinsdale (see [map](#)), sponsored by the [Housatonic Valley Association](#) (HVA). “Join the HVA for a free, guided nature walk for families along part of the Old Mill Trail in Hinsdale. The trail follows the East Branch of the Housatonic River. Complete a scavenger hunt, search for river critters and learn about the river habitat. Appropriate for families with young children. Support provided by the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Click [here](#), call (413) 394-9796 or write to or adixon@hvatoday.org for more info.

June 13 (Saturday) – HOOSIC RIVER – *Walking tour along the Hoosic* in North Adams, 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by the [Hoosic River Revival](#). See the River as it currently is, and learn about the proposed pilot restoration project that would redesign the existing engineered channel to improve access, habitat, river health and aesthetics, while still maintaining flood protection. The walk begins and ends at the MassMoCA Entrance parking lot, Marshall St. in North Adams (see [map](#)). Click [here](#) for more info.

June 13 (Saturday) – STATEWIDE – *National Get Outdoors Day*, (aka GO Day), sponsored by [GetOutdoorsUSA](#), “which encourages Americans, especially our youth, to seek out healthy, active outdoor lives and embrace our parks, forests, refuges and other public lands and waters.” Click [here](#) to see the list of GO Day events.

June 13 (Saturday) – NASHUA RIVER – *Ninth Annual Nashua River Flatwater Canoe and Kayak Race* in Groton, sponsored by the [New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association](#) (NECKRA). Several entry classes available for 10-mile long course and 4-mile short course. Registration begins at 9:00 AM; race begins at 11:00 AM. Barbeque after the race. Click [here](#) or contact Stephen Miller [(978) 771-1821 or stephen.miller@pobox.com] for more info.

June 13 – 14 (Saturday–Sunday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Dragon Boat Festival* in Boston and Cambridge, 9:00AM– 5:00 PM, sponsored by the [Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival of Boston](#). The Dragon Boat Festival is a centuries-old cultural and sporting event, and the Boston club has been making it local for many years. The festival features boat races, arts and crafts, Asian cuisine, and it is free and open to the public. Click [here](#) for up-to-date info and [here](#) for more info on dragon boats in Boston.

June 13 – 14 (Saturday-Sunday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Summer Paddlesports Kick-Off*, sponsored by the [Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center](#), and held at the [Barton Cove Canoe and Kayak Rental Office](#) on Route 2 in Gill. “This event offers older children and adults new to paddlesports the chance to try canoeing, kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) for free, and to discover the great health and social benefits of these easy-to-learn summer activities. The twenty-minute free clinics will introduce participants to basic techniques followed by one hour of free boat use, allowing time to practice new skills and explore scenic Barton Cove on your own. Suitable for ages 8 and older. Register in advance by calling (800) 859-2960, or, after May 21 call Barton Cove at (413) 863-9300.

June 14 (Sunday) – FRENCH RIVER (FRENCH AND QUINEBAUG WATERSHED) – *National Trails Day Horseback Ride* in Oxford, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM, sponsored by the [Bay State Trail Riders Association](#) (BSTRA). Pleasure ride for equestrians bringing their own horses on marked trail through the [U.S. Army Corps’ Hodges Village Recreation Area](#). Open to both BSTRA members and non-members. Opportunity to get big prize package if you elect to get sponsors and are one of the 8 participants bringing in the largest amount in sponsor contributions. Free t-shirts for the first 50 registered participants. Large raffle following lunch. 100% of the money raised from this event will be used for trail creation, maintenance or preservation projects in Massachusetts. Click [here](#) or contact Lynn Paretsky at (508) 476-7094 or lynnparetsky@aol.com to sign up or for more info.

June 14 (Sunday) – QUIVETT CREEK (CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED) – *Paddle Quivett Creek* from Paines Beach, Brewster, 10:00 AM (sharp) start, sponsored by the [Kayak and Walk Cape Cod Meetup Group](#). “We’ll paddle this lovely marsh twice before June 15, after which Brewster stickers are required for parking. We’ll launch at 10:00 AM, because high tide in Barnstable and Sesuit Harbors is about 10:15 AM. If there is wind forecast for the 14th, I’ll postpone to Monday, 15th. We’ll paddle from Paines Creek Beach and hug the shore going west to the mouth of Quivett Creek. As we make our way up this wonderful creek, we’ll be surrounded by extensive marsh. Unlike Scorton Creek and Chase Garden where the reeds and grasses are too tall to see over, the vegetation along Quivett Creek allows distant views at high tide”. Click [here](#) for basic info on this group and its paddling trips and [here](#) to sign up or for more specific info on this event.

June 15 (Monday) – BLACKSTONE WATERSHED – “*Cost-Effective Green Infrastructure in the Blackstone River Watershed*” workshop, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the [Millville Senior Center](#), sponsored by [Mass. Audubon’s Shaping the Future of Your Community Program](#), along with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), Horsley Witten Group and the Blackstone River Coalition. The workshop will cover case studies illustrating success stories in reducing nutrient loads while making economic progress, and provide info on a competitive technical assistance program. While the target audience for the workshop is Blackstone watershed municipal officials and staff (DPWs, Town Engineers, Planning, Conservation, Finance, Town Managers, etc., and other community or watershed leaders), the program is open to anyone interested in Green Infrastructure and/or Low Impact Development and cost effective solutions to stormwater management in the Blackstone watershed. Please RSVP to Stefanie Covino [scovino@massaudubon.org] or (508) 753-6087 ext. 5018. Click [here](#) for more info on the workshop and [here](#) for more background info on the project as a whole.

June 16 (Tuesday) – MUMFORD RIVER (BLACKSTONE WATERSHED) – *Paddle Lackey Pond and the Mumford River* in Sutton, 6:15 PM (sharp), sponsored by the [Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association](#) (RICKA)’s [Blackstone Valley Paddle Club](#). Take the Lackey Dam Road exit off of Route 146 and head approx. 1 mile north to the put-in at the dam. Club membership is required to take part in this event; click [here](#) for more details. Click [here](#) or contact Cheryl at stonefoxfarm@cox.net or (401)647-5887 for more info on this trip. In the

event of a last minute cancellation or modification to a paddle trip, please check the [Message Board](#) and the [website](#) for updates.

June 16 (Tuesday) – NORTH RIVER (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) - *Edible Natives for Your Landscape*, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM in Marshfield, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's North River Wildlife Sanctuary](#).

“There’s an increasing inclination to utilize more native species in home landscaping, thanks to recent books like Doug Tallamy’s [Bringing Nature Home](#), which extol the virtues of native plants over exotic ornamentals for attracting and sustaining beneficial insects. Yet, for some people, this alone may be insufficient motivation to ‘go native.’ Perhaps knowing that many native species are edible by people too will provide the additional incentive you need to add native species to your yard. Juneberries, for example, are equally edible by songbirds and people. The taste of the ripe fruit is like a cross between cherries and almonds. Join Russ Cohen, expert forager and author of [Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten](#), for a 90-minute slide show entitled ‘Nibbling on Natives in your Back Yard and Beyond’ followed by a 90 minute walk exploring wild natives. This presentation features at least three dozen species of native edible wild plants suitable for your home landscape, or nibbling on as you encounter them in other locales. Keys to the identification of each species are provided, along with edible portions, seasons of availability and preparation methods, along with guidelines for safe and environmentally responsible foraging. Following the lecture, sample a foraged goodie or two made from edible native species.” Fee: \$10/members, \$12/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (781) 837-9400 to sign up or for more info.

June 17 – July 3 – PARKER, NORTH COASTAL, IPSWICH, SHAWSHEEN, SUDBURY and SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHEDS – 2015 Massachusetts Walking Tour, an annual non-profit bipedal concert tour of Massachusetts in support of arts and culture. A group of acoustic musicians (click [here](#) for a sample tune) walks from town to town and then performs free community concerts, collaborating with local artists, musicians, educational programs, trail managers and land trust groups to highlight both artistic diversity and recreational land use. This year’s Tour will follow the route of (and is intended to benefit) the [Bay Circuit Trail and Greenway](#), which includes many rivers, streams and wetlands. Click [here](#) for more info.

June 18 (Thursday) – CHARLES RIVER – “Dams, Bridges and Locks” walking tour, 6:00 PM start, sponsored by [Boston By Foot](#). “Take a journey of discovery exploring the new open spaces along the lower Charles River. A hub of transportation and recreation, this area has experienced several cycles of dramatic change resulting from the construction of bridges and dams, the expansion of Boston, and the Big Dig project. From the tidal estuary of the Charles through the mudflats of Millers River, this unique tour traces the evolution of the lost half-mile and the reshaping of Boston. Dams, railroads, bridges, and highways have closed off this area until the recent creation of incredible public parks and recreation space. This tour will also feature a walk over the new North Bank Pedestrian Bridge connecting Cambridge and Charlestown.” Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

June 18 (Thursday) – NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED – “Dinner with the Herons”, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the [Coolidge Reservation](#) in Manchester-by-the-Sea, co-sponsored by Mass. Audubon and [The Trustees of Reservations](#). “View the amazing spectacle of the evening flight of herons, egrets, and ibises returning to their night roost into the largest heronry in Massachusetts, just off the coast of Coolidge Point. Bring your picnic dinner to enjoy while we discuss the life-and-death struggle in the colony.” Fee: \$12/members, \$16/nonmembers. Click [here](#), [here](#) or call (978) 462-9998 to sign up or for more info.

June 19 (Friday) – REXHAME MARSH (SOUTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – “Plants of the Sand Dunes”, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM in Marshfield, sponsored by Mass Audubon’s North River Wildlife Sanctuary. “The sand dunes of the Marshfield’s Rexhame area provide a number of diverse habitats for some very specialized plants. Explore the plants of the high and low salt marsh, back dune, secondary sand dunes, interdune forest, open beach, and intertidal zone. Learn about the special adaptations required in these diverse habitats as well as how the sand dunes came to be established back in 1898. Bring water, a hat, and sunscreen. Meet at the left corner of the [Rexhame Beach parking lot](#). Instructor: Carolyn Sones, amateur botanist. Fee: Adults \$10/members, \$14/non-members. Pre-registration is required; click [here](#) or call (781) 837-9400 to sign up or for more info.

June 19 (Friday) – QUINEBAUG RIVER – *Paddle the Quinebaug River Water Trail*, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by [The Last Green Valley](#). “Join The Last Green Valley for a scenic paddle on the [Quinebaug River Water Trail](#) from Holland to East Brimfield, MA. This flatwater stretch is family-friendly and a good paddle for both beginner and experienced paddlers (4 miles, 3 hours). You must provide your own kayak or canoe and PFD. Bring snacks and a drink. Pre-registration required; click [here](#) or contact Bill Reid [(860) 774-3300, bill@tlgv.org] to sign up or for more info.

June 19 (Friday) – STATEWIDE – *Wetland Delineation for Beginners*, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM at the MassDevelopment Center in Devens, sponsored by the [Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions](#) (MACC). “This workshop, taught by Greg Hochmuth and Michael Howard, is designed for Conservation Commissioners new to wetland delineation methodology. Participants will learn how to identify wetland resource areas using the DEP manual ‘Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands under the MA Wetlands Protection Act’. Commissioners will gain a better understanding of how to identify a wetland resource area based on vegetation, soils and indicators of hydrology.” Click [here](#) to register online or for more info.

June 19 (Friday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Guided Sunset Kayak Tour*, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM in Lowell, sponsored by the [UMass/Lowell Kayak Center](#). “On this guided tour, an instructor will meet you at the Boathouse bay doors ([500 Pawtucket Ave.](#), Lowell) at 7:00 PM and paddle upstream on the Merrimack River. Although the boathouse is located downtown, the Merrimack offers a quiet oasis, and it will be hard to believe you are still in the city. We will take a side-trip up a nearby creek and under an old mill before watching the sky blaze in a colorful sunset. In the twilight we will float gently back to the Boathouse. Please come 15 minutes early if you would like kayaking instruction. Please register in advance today, as the group size is limited to 10 people.” Fee: \$30/person. Click [here](#) or contact Ken Follette [(978) 934-6797 or Kenneth.Follette@uml.edu] to sign up or for more info. A similar trip is scheduled for (6/26/15).

June 19-20 (Friday - Saturday) – ESSEX RIVER (NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Essex River Day*. This event was created to encourage those who have a boat to offer neighborly boat rides to those who may not have a boat and don’t have ready access to appreciating the wonders of the Essex River. The event begins on Friday at 5:30 PM with a “kick-off cruise”: enjoy a free [Essex River Cruises](#) sunset cruise along the river. (Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. Call Essex River Cruises at 978-768-6981 to reserve your spot). On Saturday, those who have a boat offer a neighborly boat ride to those in town who may not have a boat and don’t have ready access to appreciating the wonders of the Essex River. (Please email psilva@essexma.org or call the Harbormaster at the non-emergency telephone number (978) 768-6511 if you have available space on your boat or if you would like to be matched with a host captain and crew for a ride.) The event has since expanded into a full day of events, culminating with a pick-up softball game for all ages, a cook out with vendors, live music and a bonfire at Memorial Park ([24 Martin Street in Downtown Essex](#)). Rain date is 6/21. Click [here](#) (scroll down to June 19) for more info.

June 19-20 (Friday-Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Berkshire BioBlitz*, 12:00 Noon Friday – 12:00 Noon Saturday in Pittsfield, hosted by (and taking place at) [Mass. Audubon’s Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Canoe Meadows is part of a wildlife corridor that includes October Mountain State Reservation; it is abundant in flora and fauna. The goal, as with every BioBlitz (sometimes called “Biodiversity Day” in some towns), is to see how many species we can find in a given area in the 24 hour period of the BioBlitz”. Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info on this year’s event, as well as to learn about previous years’ Berkshire BioBlitz events.

June 19-20 (Friday – Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Seventh Annual Waltham Riverfest*, in downtown Waltham. [Riverfest](#) is a celebration of the wonderful resources, both natural and artistic, that run through the heart of Waltham. Activities include music, dancing, painting, strolling, shopping, eating, and boating the entire weekend, as well as a [canoe tour on Friday evening](#). This year there will be new and exciting additions to the music and entertainment. The Moody Street Bridge will have Art Vendors along the length of it on Saturday. There will also be a guided river walk on Saturday morning by the [Waltham Land Trust](#). Write to info@downtownwaltham.org if you’d like to volunteer, or click [here](#) or write to sarahmhankins@gmail.com for more info.

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June 20 – June 26

June 20 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Canoe Trip on the Housatonic River*, 8:30 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by Mass. Audubon's Berkshire Sanctuaries. "Watch for frogs, fish, herons, muskrats, and signs of beavers along the meandering and scenic Housatonic River. This leisurely paddle will take us through the [George Darcy Wildlife Management Area](#). Join us to learn about the natural history of the waterway that is the heart of the Berkshires." Audience: Adults and children 10 and over. Canoes, paddles and PFDs are provided. Fee: \$25/members, \$35/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (413) 637-0320 to sign up or for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – WESTFIELD RIVER – *Westfield River Canoe and Kayak Cruise*, sponsored by the [Westfield River Watershed Association](#). "This is our annual boating trip, from downtown Westfield to [Robinson State Park](#). Though this 6-7 mile paddle (mostly flat water, but with a couple of quick water sections - and possibly involving a short portage around one or two difficult spots) parallels the busy Rt. 20 corridor, it has a surprisingly natural feel, and we've seen lampreys, mergansers, beavers, orioles and bald eagles on some past trips! Registration will take place from 10-11:00 AM at the parking area just east of the Great River Bridges in Westfield (off Meadow St.), after which canoes and kayaks will be dropped off at the end of Hanover St. where there will be a shuttle for participants to spot their cars at Robinson State Park and be returned to the launch area. The first group will launch around 11:00 AM. Cost for the cruise is \$10 per paddler or \$20 per family, and covers insurance and snacks at the end of the cruise." Click [here](#) for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – BUFFUMVILLE LAKE (FRENCH and QUINEBAUG WATERSHED) – *Flatwater paddle* in Oxford, 9:00 AM start, sponsored by the [French River Connection](#). This paddle will explore the lower (southern) portion of Buffumville Lake, an impounded section of the Little River, part of the U.S. Army Corps' [Buffumville Lake Flood Control Project](#). If time permits, the upper section of the Lake will be explored as well. Meet at the boat ramp (see [map](#)). This event is "BYOB" (bring your own boat). Contact trip leader Jay Wade at (508) 461-9813 for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – MILLERS RIVER – *Orange Solstice Riverfest*, sponsored by the Orange Lions Club and the Orange Business Association. Last year's event included "an Illuminated Parade of Boats, Bonfire, Floating Firepits on the River, Great Local Food and Music, Children's Activities, Yoga by the Water, JumpTown Parachuters, and more!" Click [here](#) for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – NASHUA RIVER – *Nashua River Festival*, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, sponsored by the [Lancaster Friends of the Nashua River](#). This free event will take place on the Kalon Farm property, directly opposite the [Lancaster Fairgrounds](#), along Route 117 in Lancaster. The River Festival offers families and individuals the chance to get out and enjoy a day of fun activities on the banks of the Nashua River, one of the most beautiful natural resources in the town of Lancaster. This year's event will resemble last year's [i.e., lots of fun family activities; a musical tent where groups will be playing all day long; Canoe Rides; Livestock and Petting Zoo; educational displays; a BBQ (Lancaster Boy Scouts) and Ice Cream (Juniper Farms)], with the addition of hot air balloon rides. Click [here](#) or contact Peter Stanton at (508) 523-5916 or pstanton@wbjournal.com for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – CONCORD RIVER – *Concord River Greenway walk/tour* in Lowell, 9:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust](#). "Park and meet at the Lawrence Street entrance to the Lowell Cemetery. Wear clothing appropriate for the weather and sturdy shoes. Please RSVP to (978) 934-0030 or icalvin@lowelllandtrust.org. Click [here](#) for more info. [This event is hosted as part of the [SuAsCo Watershed RiverFest 2015](#). Check out the full schedule of events [here](#).]

June 20 (Saturday) – SPICKET RIVER (MERRIMACK WATERSHED) – *Methuen Rail Trail walk* in Methuen (part of [Essex Heritage's Move It!](#) Rail Trail Series), 8:30 AM start, sponsored by the [Methuen Rail Trail Alliance](#). "Join the Methuen Rail Trail Alliance for their monthly walk along the Methuen Rail Trail." The walk meeting location is the [IHOP parking lot](#) at the northern end of the trail. Click [here](#) for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Flatwater paddle* in Chelmsford, co-sponsored by the [Merrimack River Watershed Council](#) (MRWC) and the [Paddling Committee of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#) (NH-AMC Paddlers). “Join us for a leisurely paddle on the Merrimack River starting in Chelmsford, MA. You will be required to sign a liability waiver and you must wear a PFD on the trip. Register for the trip by contacting trip leader John Pilla at kyyakr4-distro@yahoo.com.”

June 20 (Saturday) – MERRIMACK AND PARKER RIVERS – *Let's Go Outside*, 10:00AM – 3:00 PM, sponsored by the [Parker River National Wildlife Refuge](#). This will be a big, family-friendly event, free of charge to all participants, taking place rain or shine, which will involve a host of activities throughout the Refuge. Click [here](#) or call (978) 465-5753 for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – IPSWICH RIVER – *Ipswich River Paddle - Winthrop Street to Riverbend*, 10:00AM – 12:00 Noon in Ipswich, sponsored by the [Ipswich River Watershed Association](#) (IRWA). “Join members of the Ipswich Stream Team for a paddle through one of the least developed sections of the river. The trip begins just below the Winthrop Street Bridge and ends at IRWA’s Riverbend headquarters, where you can have a picnic or explore the trails and learn about the property! Please bring your own boat, PFD, and water, and RSVP for details on shuttling boats.” Contact Cynthia [cingelfinger@ipswichriver.org or (978) 412-8200] to sign up or for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – ESSEX RIVER (NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Coastal Farming Walking Tour*, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM at [Cogswell's Grant](#) (60 Spring Street, Essex), sponsored by [Historic New England](#). “Join us for a walking tour that explores the property’s history as a working farm from the seventeenth century to the present. Although the last owners, Bertram and Nina Fletcher Little, used the property as a summer home and filled the farmhouse with their collection of antiques, the farm was an important part of their life and they benefited year-round from its produce. Walk through fields and down to the marsh, discover the rich history of the families that lived and farmed here, and learn how coastal farming has evolved over the centuries.” Click [here](#) or call (978) 768-3632 to sign up or for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – CAPE COD BAY – *Barnstable Harbor Kayak and Climb Sandy Neck Lighthouse*, 3:30 PM – 6:00 PM, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Join us as we kayak Cape Cod’s largest barrier beach and salt marsh system and see for yourself why this is one of the state’s most impressive coastal ecosystems. Traveling the great marsh by kayak offers a whole new perspective on nature, and an intimacy with the tide. It also allows you to get into shallow waters, where larger boats can’t go! Launching from Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, we will explore the many tidal creeks and islands of the harbor, looking for shorebirds, osprey, horseshoe crabs and other creatures of the marsh. We’ll come ashore at the Sandy Neck barrier beach lighthouse and have the unusual privilege of climbing to the top to see the beautiful view.” Audience: Adults and children 12 year and older. Kayaks and paddling gear are provided. Fee: \$43/members, \$48/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 362-7475 to sign up or for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – ACUSHNET RIVER (BUZZARDS BAY WATERSHED) – *Buzzards Bay Swim*, [5:30 \(!\) AM – 7:00 AM](#) start, sponsored by (and benefitting) the [Buzzards Bay Coalition](#). “Celebrate a clean, healthy Buzzards Bay at the Buzzards Bay Swim on Saturday, June 20! Join more than 300 others who make a difference to protect and restore our irreplaceable Bay. You can swim, volunteer, or cheer on swimmers as they cross outer New Bedford Harbor.” The 1.2 mile open-water course begins in New Bedford’s South End, crossing outer New Bedford Harbor before ending at Fort Phoenix State Reservation in Fairhaven. At the finish line, there will be a pancake breakfast, live music, free massages for swimmers and kayakers, kids’ activities, and Coalition merchandise for sale. Swimmers and kayakers eat free. We suggest a donation of \$5 for guests, spectators, and volunteers. If you prefer not to swim, you can sign up to be part of the kayak safety flotilla to escort swimmers across the harbor, or volunteer at the event to check in participants, serve food and refreshments, and cheer for each swimmer that crosses the finish line. Click [here](#) for more info.

June 20 (Saturday) – SUDBURY RIVER – *Saxonville Riverfest*, 10:00AM start, a celebration of the [SuAsCo Riverfest](#) (see below) in the mill village of Saxonville in Framingham, sponsored by the [Friends of Saxonville](#). At 10:00 AM, there will be a nature walk along the [Carol Getchell Nature Trail](#), and at 2:00 PM, there will be a walk on part of the new Cochituate Rail Trail, following Cochituate Brook to the [Cochituate Brook Reservation](#). Click [here](#) or write to david.longden@verizon.net for more info.

June 20-21 (Saturday-Sunday) – SUDBURY/ASSABET/CONCORD RIVERS – *14th Annual Riverfest*, sponsored by the [Concord, Assabet, & Sudbury Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council](#). The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers provide a range of recreational opportunities to those within the greater Boston area. A natural respite, the river offers occasions for hiking, birding, fishing and boating. It is also a great educational resource to teach students about ecology of river systems. This year's Riverfest celebration includes over 45 events in 10 communities and is open to all who want to experience the beautiful rivers. Enjoy canoeing or kayaking, fishing, picnicking, hiking along the shore, listening to music, taking a photo – whatever you like to do! This is a rare opportunity to enjoy a full weekend of activities free of charge! Click [here](#) for more info.

June 21 (Sunday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Father's Day canoe trip* at [Bartholomew's Cobble](#) in Sheffield, 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM, sponsored by [The Trustees of Reservations](#). “Paddle the winding Housatonic to view the beauty of this meandering river as it passes through agricultural fields and floodplain forests. Watch for bald eagles flying over Bartholomew's Cobble. With your guide, learn about the river's history and what is happening to restore some of its most precious habitats and species from its upper reaches in Pittsfield through Massachusetts and into Connecticut. Paddles, life preservers, and boats are provided.” Fee: Adult \$20; Child (10-16) \$10 (members); Adult \$30; Child (10-16) \$15 (nonmembers). Click [here](#) or call (413) 229-8600 to sign up or for more info.

June 21 (Sunday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Summer Solstice Sunset– Moonrise Kayak*, 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM, sponsored by the [Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center](#). At the summer solstice, poet Mary Oliver asks, “... what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” Perhaps we can begin by celebrating the birth of summer on a paddle through the sunset? Awed by the great power of the sun, civilizations have for centuries celebrated the first day of summer, known as Midsummer or the Summer Solstice. During this evening paddle, we'll explore some of the celebrations from around the world as well as the rich history and natural history of Barton Cove. This program is appropriate for both beginning and experienced paddlers aged 16 and up. Fee: FREE with own kayak, \$25/boat with kayak rental (tandem kayaks available). Click [here](#) or call (toll-free) (800) 859-2960 to sign up or for more info.

June 21 (Sunday) – IPSWICH RIVER – *Flatwater paddle* in Topsfield, 9:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). “Meet at the Topsfield Fairgrounds Parking Lot Entrance on Route 1 in Topsfield. You should see a number of vehicles there with canoes on the roof. We will shuttle from there to the launch, which is on Rowley Bridge Road. Then we shuttle the vehicles to the take out, which is at the Bradley Palmer State Forest. We get on the river by 10:00 AM and take out about 3:30 to 4:00 PM. Bring: canoe or kayak, lunch, drink, water, sun screen, bug repellent, eyeglasses retainer strap, sun hat, life jacket If you need a boat, please let the leaders know ASAP. If you want to car pool, please let the leaders know ASAP.” While pre-registration is not required for this activity, you may want to click [here](#) or contact the trip leader [Kenneth Kaiser, (978) 664-5984 (best time to call: Before 9 PM); kkaiser@alum.mit.edu] with any questions.

June 22 (Monday) – SUDBURY-ASSABET-CONCORD WATERSHED – *Summer Solstice Snapshot for Project BudBurst*, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM at Wolbach Farm, Sudbury, sponsored by the [Sudbury Valley Trustees](#). “SVT is partnering with [Project BudBurst](#), a nationwide network of people who monitor plants as the seasons change. During this family-friendly workshop, you will learn how to collect data on local plants and upload them to Project BudBurst. Participants will contribute to a better understanding of plants and climate change.” Speaker: Jesse Koyen, Land Stewardship Coordinator, MassLIFT AmeriCorps. Registration is required; click [here](#) to register or for more info on this free event, and [here](#) to read more about SVT's partnership with Project BudBurst.

June 23 (Tuesday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Introduction to River Canoeing*, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM in South Lee, sponsored by the [Housatonic Valley Association](#). “Join the HVA for an introduction to canoeing on a flatwater stretch of the Housatonic River in Lee. Free. Canoes and equipment provided. If you have never been in a canoe, then consider this opportunity. Learn how to safely enter and exit a canoe, the basic strokes, appropriate attire and pre-trip preparation. Enjoy a short paddle upstream to enjoy beautiful views of Beartown State Forest. Families with children 10yrs+ welcome. Program support provided by [Housatonic Heritage](#).” Contact Alison at (413) 394-9796 or adixon@hvatoday.org to sign up or for more info.

June 23 (Tuesday) – WEST RIVER (BLACKSTONE WATERSHED) – *Paddle the West River* in Uxbridge, sponsored by the [Rhode Island Canoe and Kayak Association](#) (RICKA). Suitable for boats 15 feet long and under. Meet at 6:00 PM for a 6:15 PM launch. “You’ll have the chance to see lots of wildlife as you paddle upstream and back through this stretch of clean, clear flatwater. The West River has excellent water quality and is one of our rivers that is clean enough to swim in the Blackstone Valley.” Bring a lunch. Directions to the put-in: From Route 146 (North or South), take the Route 16 Exit. Take Rte. 16 East for 2 miles, through the Rt. 16/Rt. 122 intersection in downtown Uxbridge. Continue on Rte. 16 for 1 more mile. Look for a red building on the left. Take a left onto West River Road, the street immediately following the red building approximately 200 feet and park in the gravel lot on the right side of road. In the event of a last minute cancellation or modification to a paddle trip, please check the [Message Board](#) as well as your e-mail and the [website](#) for updates. Click [here](#) or contact Cheryl at stonefoxfarm@juno.com or (401) 647-5887 for more info.

June 23-24 (Tuesday-Wednesday) – CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED – *Fifth Annual Hands-On Wetland Restoration Workshop for Professionals*, hosted by (and taking place at) [Mass Audubon’s Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Barnstable. “Isolated wetlands provide vital habitat to many species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Unfortunately, a majority of these ecosystems have been lost or degraded due to draining and filling throughout New England. These landscape modifications are now affecting recovery efforts for endangered species, reducing water quality, increasing flooding, and reducing ground water supplies. Fortunately, it’s now possible to restore these altered and degraded wetlands, re-establishing the hydro-periods, aquatic vegetation, and animal life that once existed. This hands-on workshop is designed for individuals interested in learning how to use practical, low cost techniques for restoring naturally appearing and functioning wetlands. Participants will see how wetland projects can be planned in land trust properties and other private conserved lands, public land, and even on school grounds to benefit plants, animals, and people. This workshop is intended for biologists, land managers, foresters, hydrologists, engineers, technicians, educators, and other non-profit and environmental organization professionals. Fee: \$225 (\$168 for non-profits), which includes lunches on both days, hand-out materials, and a signed copy of the book [Wetland Restoration and Construction - A Technical Guide](#) by Thomas Biebighauser. Click [here](#), [here](#), or contact Ian Ives at (508) 362-7475 ext. 9350 or iives@massaudubon.org to sign up or for more info.

June 26 (Friday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Evening Canoe on the Charles*, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon’s Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary](#). Enjoy a paddle down one of the most beautiful stretches of the Charles River, past Medfield State Hospital and up into the Medfield marshes. Watch as the sun sets over the river and listen for the evening sounds of birds, frogs and other creatures. Canoes, paddles, lifejackets, a basic paddling overview & guides are all provided. Fee: Adults \$35/members, \$45/non-members. Pre-registration is required; [click here](#) or call (508) 655-2296 to sign up or for more info.

June 26-28 (Friday-Sunday) – DEERFIELD RIVER – *2015 Deerfield River DemoFest* in Charlemont, sponsored by [Zoar Outdoor](#). “Try out the latest whitewater kayaks, canoes and SUPs (stand-up paddle boats) at DemoFest, Zoar Outdoor’s 3-day whitewater event ...Free instruction from top paddlers, demos of the hottest whitewater boats on the market and hardcore paddling videos at the 11th annual DemoFest at Zoar Outdoor. The manufacturers that we represent will provide the latest whitewater gear for you to demo at no charge. Manufacturer representatives, pro paddlers, Team Z and Zoar Outdoor instruction staff will teach free mini-clinics.” NOTE: this event is for *experienced paddlers only*. Click [here](#) or write to info@zoaroutdoor.com for more info.

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June 27 – July 5

June 27 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Summer Morning Canoe on the Charles*, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Join us for a leisurely morning canoe along the Charles. Listen to bird songs and watch for great blue herons, turtles and dragonflies as we paddle during the quiet morning hours. Canoes, paddles, lifejackets, a basic paddling overview & guides are all provided.” Fee: Adults \$35/members, \$45/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 655-2296 to sign up or for more info.

June 27 (Saturday) – MUDDY RIVER (CHARLES WATERSHED) – *“Explore Boston's Back Bay Fens, Rose Garden, and Riverway” walk*, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, sponsored by the [Boston Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). Meet at corner of Huntington Ave. & Museum Rd. (Museum stop on Green Line “E”). Bring lunch & water. Heavy rain cancels. No dogs; non-AMC members \$1. While pre-registration is not required for this activity, you may want to click [here](#) or contact the trip leader [Sharon Marshall, (617) 542-4551 (best time to call: 7-9 pm)] with any questions.

June 27 (Saturday) – CAPE COD BAY – *Barnstable Harbor Kayak and Climb Sandy Neck Lighthouse*, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary](#). “Join us as we kayak Cape Cod's largest barrier beach and salt marsh system and see for yourself why this is one of the state's most impressive coastal ecosystems. Traveling the great marsh by kayak offers a whole new perspective on nature, and an intimacy with the tide. It also allows you to get into shallow waters, where larger boats can't go! Launching from Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, we will explore the many tidal creeks and islands of the harbor, looking for shorebirds, osprey, horseshoe crabs and other creatures of the marsh. We'll come ashore at the Sandy Neck barrier beach lighthouse and have the unusual privilege of climbing to the top to see the beautiful view.” Audience: Adults and children 12 year and older. Kayaks and paddling gear are provided. Fee: \$43/members, \$48/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 362-7475 to sign up or for more info.

June 27 (Saturday) - WESTFIELD RIVER – *“Dragonflies Above and Below the River” Training*, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, sponsored by the [Westfield Wild and Scenic River Committee](#). “Join Entomologist Dr. Kirsten Martin as she explores and explains the exquisite world of dragon and damselflies.” Contact Meredyth Babcock at (413) 623-2070 or volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org for more info.

June 27 (Saturday) – HOOSIC RIVER – *Fly fishing demonstration* in Williamstown, 9:00 AM start, sponsored by the [Hoosic River Watershed Association](#). “Join fly fisherman Chris Jackson for a fly-fishing demonstration on the Hoosic River at Cole Field, Williamstown. Witness and learn the basic techniques of casting a savory fly into moving water and see what happens next. Jackson, a respected angler will demonstrate the importance of softly delivering a fly on the surface of the water. Wear old sneakers in order to wade in, and bring a fly rod if you own one. Meet at the soccer gate at Cole Field, Williamstown” (see [map](#)). Click [here](#) or contact trip leader Elayne Murphy [(413) 458-2947 or emurphy@williams.edu] to sign up or for more info. Rain date: June 28.

June 27 (Saturday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Paddle trip* from Pittsfield to Lenox, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, sponsored by the [Housatonic Valley Association](#) (HVA). “Join the HVA for this free paddle trip on the Housatonic River. Canoes and equipment provided or register to bring your own boat. The paddle will begin at Fred Garner Park in Pittsfield and end at Woods Pond in Lenox. Enjoy an easy, flatwater paddle along what is considered one of the most beautiful stretches of the Housatonic River in Massachusetts. Learn more about the PCB contamination concerns, the proposed remediation plan and the expected timeline. Families with teenagers welcome. Program support provided by [Housatonic Heritage](#).” Click [here](#), call (413) 394-9796 or write to adixon@hvatoday.org to sign up or for more info.

June 27 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Third Annual Springfield Dragon Boat Festival*, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Springfield. Racing takes place at Springfield’s Riverfront Park, just south of the [Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club](#) (PVRC) Boathouse. Teams of 20 paddlers, a drummer and steerperson race. Each team races three times on race day. This family-friendly festival features the exciting sport of dragon boat racing and includes music, performances, food, vendors, arts & crafts for kids and more. Click [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) or contact the Boathouse at (413) 736-1322 or info@pvriverfront.org for more info on the race or on dragon boating in general.

June 27 (Saturday) – DEERFIELD RIVER – *Charlemont Downriver Canoe and Kayak Race*, sponsored by the [New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association](#) (NECKRA). A six-mile race on Class I and II water. Registration starts at 11:00 AM; race starts at 1:45 PM. Awards at the Charlemont Inn; trophies to the top three finishers in each class. Click [here](#) or contact race organizer Charlie Brackett [(603) 585-7167 (home) or (603) 303-1396 (cell)] for more info.

June 27 (Saturday) – NASHUA RIVER – *Invasive Water Chestnut Pull on Nashua River* in Pepperell, MA, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by the [Nashua River Watershed Association](#). Volunteers are needed to help scout and pull water chestnuts, an invasive exotic weed, from the Nashua River in Pepperell. Gathering baskets and maps will be provided. [Nashoba Paddler LLC](#) in West Groton, MA will be providing a limited number of canoes for use at no charge on a “first call, first served.” basis (call them at (978) 448-8699 to reserve a canoe). Recommended: work clothes, shoes and gloves that can get wet (plants have sharp seeds), sunscreen, bug spray, and water. Volunteers may bring their own boat and equipment. PFDs (life vests) are required. Contact Martha at (978) 448-0299 or martham@nashuariverwatershed.org to sign up or for more info.

June 27 (Saturday) – NORTH NASHUA RIVER (NASHUA WATERSHED) – *Nashua River Brewer’s Festival*, 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM at [Riverfront Park in Fitchburg](#), sponsored by [Beers for Good](#). One of the [Fitchburg Civic Days](#) events, the Festival offers an opportunity to listen to live music, enjoy beverages, and other fun activities, with all proceeds going to charitable organizations served by the [Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts](#). Click [here](#) or write to beersforgood@gmail.com for more info, and click [here](#) to see photos taken at a previous event.

June 27-28 (Saturday-Sunday) – FRENCH RIVER – *2nd XTERRA French River Sprint and Triathlon* in Oxford. Saturday’s events include the [French River Off-Road Sprint Tri/Du](#) race for kids. The Sunday Triathlon event consists of a 1/2 mile swim in Carbuncle Pond, followed by the single-loop, 11-mile mountain bike course over a variety of terrain around and across the French River (primarily single track), and then a hilly and technical 5.5 mile single-loop trail run, that will test the most extreme trail runner. Click [here](#), [here](#) or contact Alex Rogozenski [Alex@MRAMultisport.com or (774) 272-1767] for more info.

June 28 (Sunday) – ESSEX RIVER (NORTH COASTAL WATERSHED) – *Essex River Kayak Tour*, sponsored by the [Essex County Greenbelt Association](#). “Join Greenbelt and our partners, [Essex River Basin Adventures](#), for a special ‘Get Outside Experience’ on the water. Bring your own kayak, or use a Greenbelt loaner. We’ll depart from Greenbelt’s [Cox Reservation](#) Headquarters and paddle the Essex River. Please [RSVP](#) by June 19th and let us know if you need a loaner and life jackets. Dress for the weather. Hat, sunscreen, bug spray, camera and binoculars recommended.” Click [here](#) or call (978) 768-7241 to sign up or for more info.

June 28 (Sunday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Hike Maudslay State Park* in Newburyport, 1:00 PM start, sponsored by the [Bay State Outdoor Trekkers Meetup group](#). “[Maudslay State Park](#) is a landscaped conservation area along the right bank of the Merrimack River. The main channel of the tidal estuary at its lower runs beneath the steep bluffs on the river banks where primeval stands of white pine trees, tower so tall that from below their tops are not visible in the upper canopy, which is a nesting site for bald eagles. This approximately 450 acre park has one of the largest naturally-occurring stands of mountain laurel in Massachusetts. This intermediate-level hike should last about three to three and one-half hours, including breaks. No dogs, please.” Click [here](#) to sign up or for more info.

June 28 (Sunday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Meltdown Canoe and Kayak Race* in Northfield, sponsored by the [New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association](#) (NECKRA). Registration starts at 8:30 AM; the race starts at 11:00 AM. There are two race lengths: 8 miles and 5 miles. The race venue is the Riverview Picnic Area, 99 Millers Falls Rd. in Northfield. Awards and picnic after the race. Click [here](#), [here](#), or contact race organizer [John Kazimierczyk](#) [(603) 239-4633] for more info.

June 28 (Sunday) – GOOSE PONDS (HOUSATONIC WATERSHED) – *Canoe Trip to Lower and Upper Goose Ponds*, 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon in Tyringham and Lee, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Berkshire Sanctuaries](#). "Explore the coves and marshes of one of the Berkshires' most beautiful lakes. Paddle across Lower Goose Pond to pristine Upper Goose Pond in search of ravens, hawks, herons, and a variety of songbirds. Eat a snack onshore and search for interesting plant and animal life along the Appalachian Trail. We will walk one mile on the Appalachian Trail before paddling back." Canoes, PFDs and paddles are provided. Audience: Adults and children aged 10 and older who can swim. Fee: \$28/members, \$38/non-members. Pre-registration is required; click [here](#) or call (413) 637-0320 to sign up or for more info.

June 30 (Tuesday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *Guided Moonlight Kayak Tour*, 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM in Lowell, sponsored by the [UMass/Lowell Kayak Center](#). "Our moonlight tours are guided tours of the Merrimack River using the light of the full moon. An instructor will meet you at the Boathouse bay doors ([500 Pawtucket Ave.](#), Lowell). Paddling by moonlight offers a particularly peaceful experience, as the temperature cools and world quiets. All the light you need is there in the moon, and the glow sticks on front and back of our boats. You will be surprised by how much you can see and share a special experience that you will remember forever. Please come 15 minutes early if you would like kayaking instruction. Please register in advance, as the group size is limited to 12 people." Fee: \$30/person. Click [here](#) or contact Ken Follette [(978) 934-6797 or Kenneth.Follette@uml.edu] to sign up or for more info. (A similar trip is scheduled for 7/2/15.)

July 1 (Wednesday) – CHASE GARDEN CREEK (CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED) – *Full Moon Kayaking Bass Hole in Yarmouth Port*, 8:30 PM – 10:30 PM, sponsored by Mass. Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary. "Join us as we kayak Bass Hole and Chase Garden Creek in Yarmouth Port. This creek is a long, meandering creek that is protected from the stronger winds of Barnstable Harbor. Close encounters with osprey nests and other bird life is a certainty. While this trip is intended for those with previous kayaking experience, all experience levels are welcome. Participants will be required to wear a life vest. Kayaks, paddles, life vests and safety equipment are provided." The trip is open to adults and children at least 12 years of age. Fee: \$43/members, \$48/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 362-7475 to sign up or for more info.

July 4 (Saturday) – BARNSTABLE HARBOR (CAPE AND ISLANDS WATERSHED) – *Kayaking Barnstable Harbor*, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM, sponsored by [Mass. Audubon's Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary](#). "Join us as we kayak Cape Cod's largest barrier beach and salt marsh system, and see for yourself why this is one of the state's most impressive coastal ecosystems. Traveling the great marsh by kayak offers a whole new perspective on nature, and an intimacy with the tide. It also allows you to get into shallow waters, where larger boats can't go! Launching from Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, we will explore the many tidal creeks and islands of the harbor, looking for shorebirds, osprey, horseshoe crabs and other creatures of the marsh. We'll come ashore at the Sandy Neck barrier beach lighthouse. Kayaks, paddles, and life vests provided. The trip is open to adults and children at least 12 years of age accompanied by a parent. Fee: \$43/members, \$48/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (508) 362-7475 to sign up or for more info.

July 4 (Saturday) – MERRIMACK RIVER – *"Trash Patrol" on the Merrimack*, 9:30 AM start, co-sponsored by the [AMC NH Paddlers](#) and the [Merrimack River Watershed Council](#). "Make this the season you join a Trash Patrol! Enjoy a day of paddling and leave the river cleaner than you found it! You provide the boat, we provide all other equipment needed. Thank you BBQ after the paddle!" Meet at [Frost Road Park in Tyngsborough](#). Click [here](#) to register or for more info, or contact trip leader Denise Hurt at (603) 889-4812 (best time to call: before 9 PM).

July 4 (Saturday) – CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Bald Eagles and Barton Cove Paddle*, 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by the [Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center](#). “Join Mass. Audubon’s Patti Steinman and Northfield’s Kim Noyes for a morning paddle on the Connecticut River as we explore scenic Barton Cove. Bald Eagles first built a nest on Barton Cove Island in 1989, and have nested on the island continuously since then. During the past two breeding seasons, three eaglets have successfully fledged from this historic nesting location. We’ll delve into the success of the restoration program, their fascinating life history and hopefully catch a glimpse of these majestic birds. Perhaps a fledgling bald eagle will be ready for independence as this is often the timing of their first flight. Barton Cove is also rich with special places and stories including ancient waterfalls, historic log drives and dinosaur footprints. This program is appropriate for both beginning and experienced paddlers and is co-sponsored with Massachusetts Audubon Society’s Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary. Single and tandem kayaks available.” This event is suitable for ages 12 and over. Fee: \$5 with own boat, \$30/boat for rental. Call (800) 859-2960 to sign up for this event or for more info.

July 4 (Saturday) – CHARLES RIVER – *Independence Day Celebration at the Charles River Esplanade*, featuring a performance by the Boston Pops Orchestra, followed by fireworks. One of the best ways to take in this celebration is [from a canoe or kayak in the river](#). Click [here](#) for additional info.

July 4-5 (Saturday-Sunday) – STATEWIDE – *Free Saltwater Fishing Days*, sponsored by the [Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries](#) (DMF). “On these two days, no permit is required to fish recreationally in the Commonwealth’s marine waters, out to three miles. Anglers looking for a spot to drop a line from shore, or a boat ramp to put in a kayak, canoe, or larger vessel, should check out the Office of Fishing and Boating Access’ [Directory of Access Sites](#). All other days of the year, saltwater anglers over the age of 15 are required to possess a Massachusetts [Recreational Saltwater Fishing Permit](#), which funds [improvements](#) to salt water fisheries and fishing access.” Click [here](#) for more info on the Free Saltwater Fishing days, and [here](#) for info on the [Massachusetts Saltwater Recreational Fishing Guide](#).

July 5 (Sunday) – BELLE ISLE MARSH (BOSTON HARBOR WATERSHED) – *Birding at Belle Isle Marsh* in East Boston, 6:00 (!) AM start, sponsored by the [South Shore Bird Club](#). “Herons, Egrets, Least Bitterns and Salt Marsh Sparrows all are possible Belle Isle Marsh! Meet in the Parking Lot for the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, 1400 Bennington Street, Boston.” Click [here](#) or contact trip leaders Christine and Steven Whitebread [(617) 395-8006, standch@hotmail.com] for more info.

July 5 (Sunday) – DEERFIELD RIVER – *Whitewater Rafting on the Deerfield River, Dryway Section*, sponsored by the [Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club](#). “Join the Berkshire Chapter for a volunteer-piloted, Class IV whitewater rafting trip on the Dryway Section of the Deerfield River. Minimum age is 15 yrs. No rafting experience is necessary, but good swimming skills are required in the event of an upset. Trips meet at the Big Y plaza at 10 AM just off the rotary west of I-91/Rte 2 West in Greenfield, Mass. Trip limit is 14.” Fee: \$14/members, \$19/non- members. Pre-registration is required; click [here](#) or contact trip leader Al Holcroft at (413) 256-1301 to sign up or for more info.

July 5 (Sunday) – HOUSATONIC RIVER – *Canoe Trip on the Housatonic River*, 8:30 AM – 12:00 Noon, sponsored by Mass. Audubon’s Berkshire Sanctuaries. “Watch for frogs, fish, herons, muskrats, and signs of beavers along the meandering and scenic Housatonic River. This leisurely paddle will take us through the [George Darey Wildlife Management Area](#). Join us to learn about the natural history of the waterway that is the heart of the Berkshires.” Audience: Adults and children 10 and over. Canoes, paddles and PFDs are provided. Fee: \$25/members, \$35/non-members. Click [here](#) or call (413) 637-0320 to sign up or for more info.

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Last But Not Least –



If you have a river- or wetland-related event that **falls outside** of the time period covered by the *Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Months Calendar* (4/25 – 7/5/15), it is possible that you can get it listed on the [Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism](#) (aka MOTT or [Massvacation.com](#)) **website** – click [here](#) to submit your info. [See also MOTT's [science/nature](#) and [outdoor activities](#) web pages.] You can also submit your event to the [Visit Massachusetts](#) website.

Mass. Division of Ecological Restoration – *2015 Massachusetts Rivers and Wetlands Months Calendar*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Charles D. Baker, Governor

Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

George N. Peterson, Jr., Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game

Mary-Lee King, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game

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The mission of the Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) is to restore and protect the health and integrity of the Commonwealth's rivers, wetlands, and watersheds for the benefit of people, fish, and wildlife.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to e-mail notices for the DER *Ebb&Flow* Newsletter (4 editions/year) and the annual *Rivers/Wetlands Months Calendar*, e-mail russ.cohen@state.ma.us.